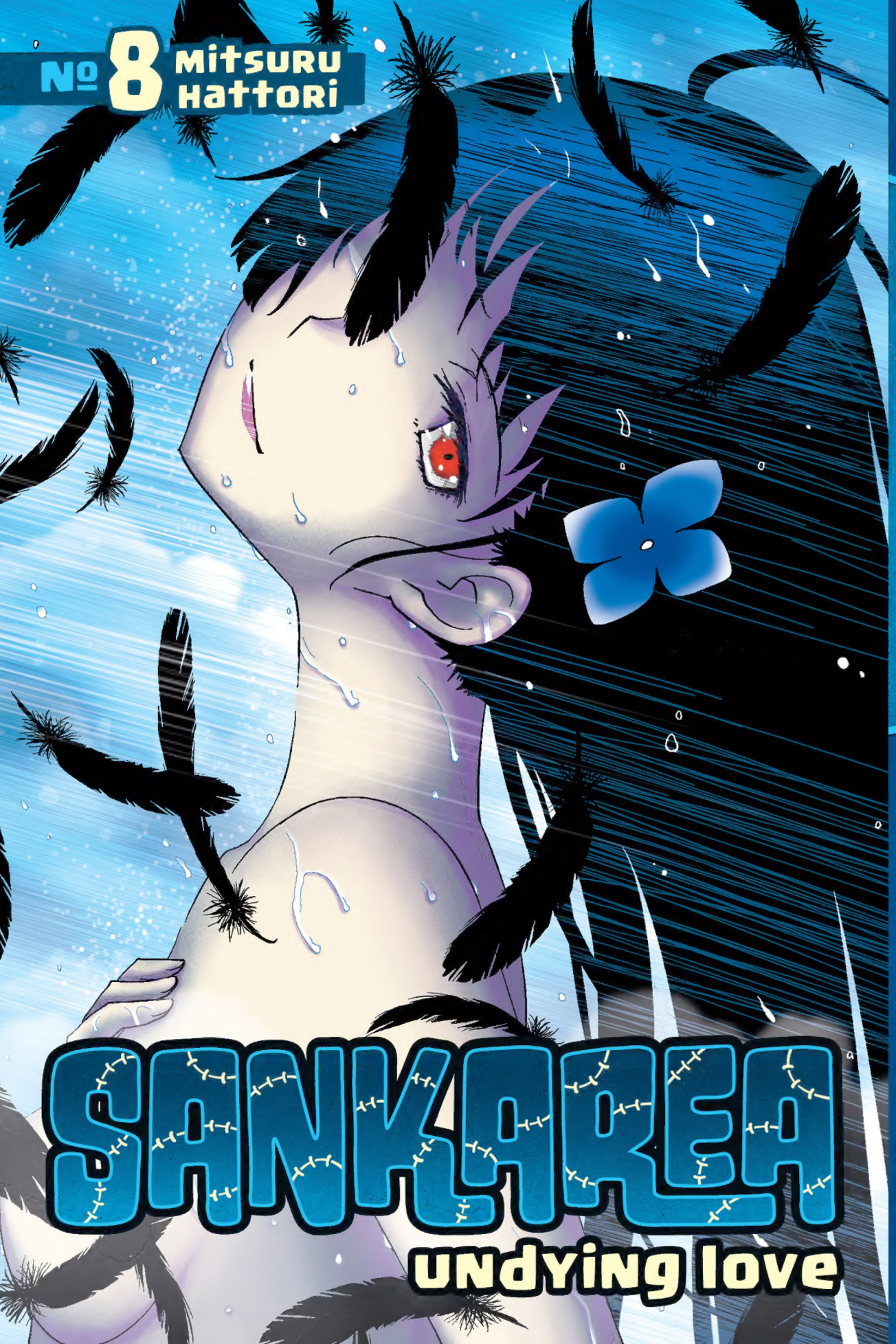

№8
Mitsuru Hattori
SANKAREA
undying love

SANKAREA
8
MITSURU HATTORI

Kurumiya Darin Arciento

An expert in zombie research who came to Japan from the southern islands to visit "Professor Boyle" (Grandpa). She has a strange passion for her research. Despite her looks, she's younger than Rea.

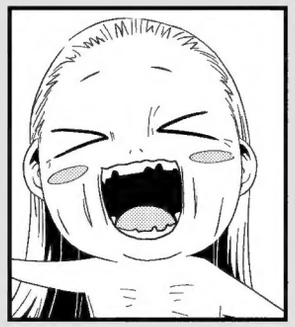
18

Darin's faithful pet. It's been zombified and half-mechanized.

THE FURUYA FAMILY

Dad

His real name is Furuya Dohn. He's the head priest at Shiryohji Temple. He agreed to Rea and Darin living in their home, saying only, "Should be fine, right?"



Grandpa

The most mysterious organism (?) of all in "Sankarea." Apparently he has studied zombies at an overseas research facility in the past...

Bub

He was hit by a car and died, but came back to life thanks to the elixir Chihiro and Rea made.

Furuya Mero

A reliable first-year middle school student, she manages all the housework for the Furuya family. She loves to read the Heart Sutra.

STORY

Holding the possibility that there may be a way to suppress Bub's turbid period, Rea hopes to be examined at ZoMA, and after coming to understand the depth of her resolve, Chihiro goes to ZoMA along with Sankarea and Darin. There, they find a state-of-the-art facility involved in the research of many zombies, including the zombie-girl, Rosalie. From the results of the examination conducted by the facility's Chief Salva, —Darin's father—it becomes clear that part of Rea's brain continues its biological activity. Chihiro is overjoyed with the hope of finding a way to suppress the turbid period, but he ends up left alone among a pack of zombies and realizes that he's been placed in Salva's trap. But his realization comes too late, as a scalpel has already been taken to Rea's brain!

Furuya Chihiro

A first-year student at Shiyoh Public High School, he's an unusual boy who has loved zombies ever since he was small. He is currently trying all kinds of different things to protect Rea. He once became a half-zombie after Rea bit him.

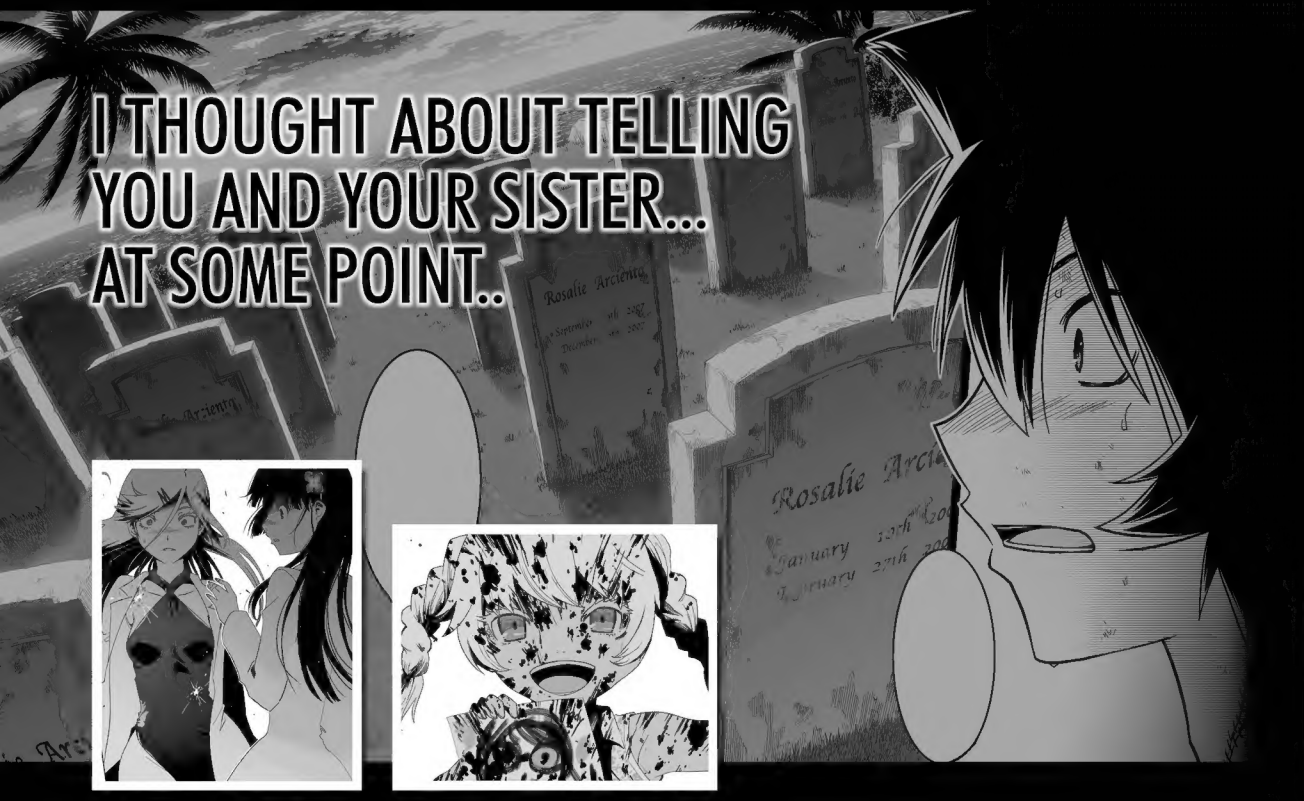
Saohji Ranko

Chihiro's cousin and childhood friend, she's one year above him in school, and a second-year student at Sanka Girls'. She's a perky, energetic girl who is on the tennis team. Her nickname is "Wanko."

Sanka Rea

A first-year student at the private Sanka Girls' Academy, she's the daughter of a well-known family, but fell to her death trying to escape her father. Afterwards, she returned to life as a zombie girl! She's currently living with the Furuya family.

MITSURU HATTORI presents



CONTENTS

CHAPTER 35: SOMEDAY... DEFINITELY... 5
THE SERPENT AND THE RAINBOW

CHAPTER 36: THANK... YOU... 35
ZONE OF THE DEAD

CHAPTER 37: HURRAY... HURRAY... 71
ZOMBIE CHEERLEADING CAMP

CHAPTER 38: I'LL PUT AN END... TO THIS... 91
SWAMP ZOMBIES!!!

CHAPTER 39: GLAMOR... OUS... 107
THE GHOULS

CHAPTER 40: TRUST... ME... 139
THE RAGE

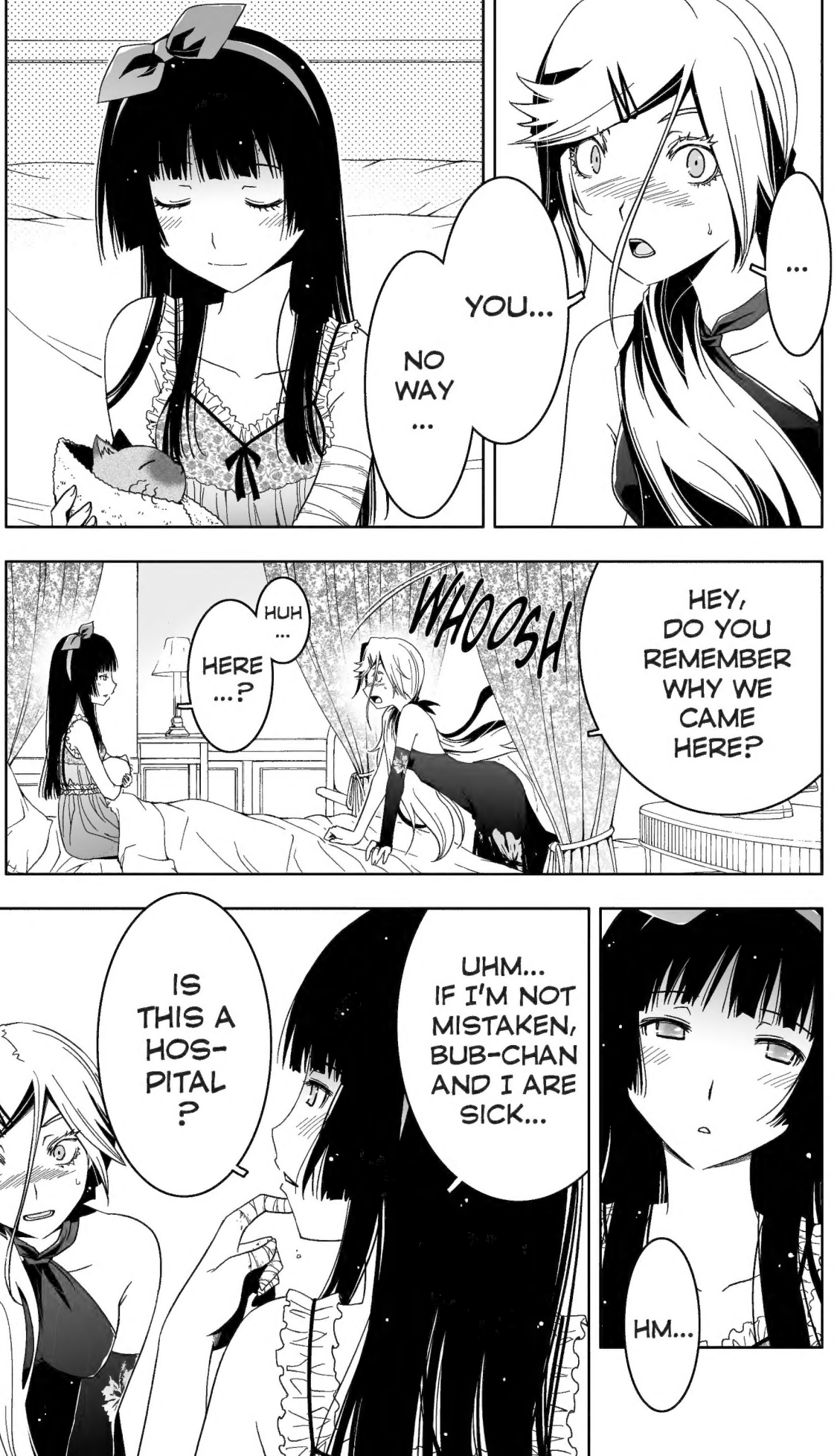
SERIALIZED IN BESSATSU SHONEN MAGAZINE, DECEMBER 2012 – MAY 2013.

SANKAREA 8

35 SOMEDAY...DEFINITELY...

✦ THE SERPENT AND THE RAINBOW ✦

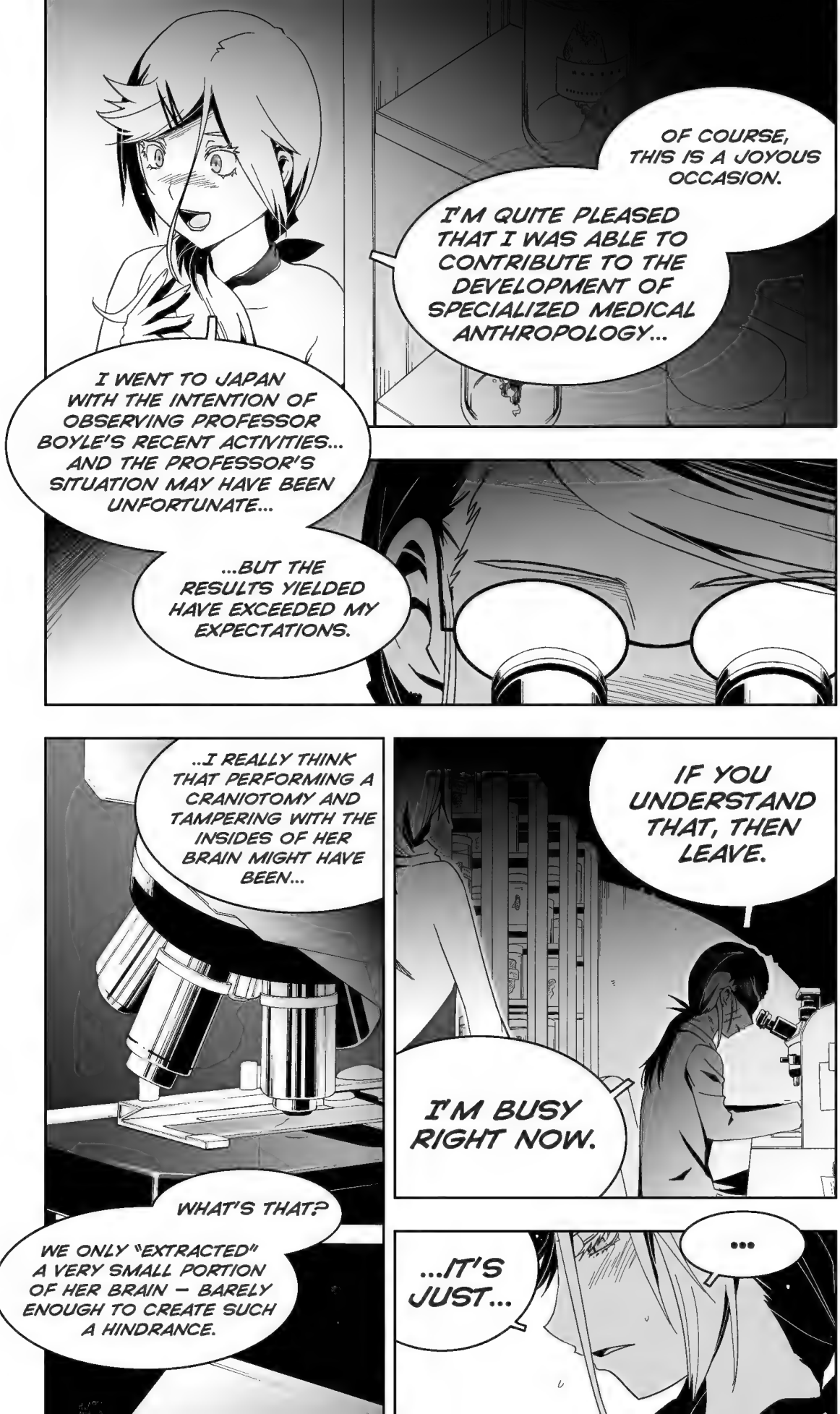
HAVE WE ...
...MET SOME-WHERE?


...
YOU...
NO WAY ...
HEY, DO YOU REMEMBER WHY WE CAME HERE?
WHOOSH
HUH ...
HERE ...?
HM...
UHM... IF I'M NOT MISTAKEN, BUB-CHAN AND I ARE SICK...
IS THIS A HOS-PITAL ?

YOU'RE NOT SO MUCH SICK AS YOU'RE A ZOMBIE... THAT'S WHY...
A ZOM-BIE ...
HUH... I'M A ZOMBIE ...?
HE HE.
TE HE HE HE.
...
YOU... DON'T TELL ME YOU'VE ALSO FORGOTTEN ABOUT HIM...?

CLACK
CHIEF!!
TAP
TAP
TAP
hmm..
CHIEF...?
SHE'S DISPLAYING OBVIOUS SYMPTOMS OF MEMORY LOSS FOLLOWING THE OPERATION...
...
DARIN...
YOU BROUGHT ME A TRULY EXCELLENT SAMPLE.

BA-BUMP
CAN YOU BELIEVE THIS? DESPITE THE FACT THAT ALMOST TEN HOURS HAVE PASSED SINCE THEIR EXTRACTION...
...HER BRAIN CELLS CONTINUE TO BE ACTIVE...!!
BA-BUMP
BA-BUMP
IT'S AS IF...
...THE ENTIRETY OF HER "LIFE" WAS COLLECTED HERE AT THE MOMENT OF HER DEATH...!!
BA-BUMP
BA-BUMP
THIS IS THE TRUE IDENTITY OF WHAT HAS BEEN SUPPRESSING THE PROGRESSION OF HER TURBID PERIOD...!
...HEHE.
HAHAHA.
IF WE CAN UTILIZE THIS, THEN...!!
...AREN'T YOU HAPPY?
OH, NO, I AM...


OF COURSE, THIS IS A JOYOUS OCCASION.
I'M QUITE PLEASED THAT I WAS ABLE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF SPECIALIZED MEDICAL ANTHROPOLOGY...
I WENT TO JAPAN WITH THE INTENTION OF OBSERVING PROFESSOR BOYLE'S RECENT ACTIVITIES... AND THE PROFESSOR'S SITUATION MAY HAVE BEEN UNFORTUNATE...
...BUT THE RESULTS YIELDED HAVE EXCEEDED MY EXPECTATIONS.
..I REALLY THINK THAT PERFORMING A CRANIOTOMY AND TAMPERING WITH THE INSIDES OF HER BRAIN MIGHT HAVE BEEN...
IF YOU UNDERSTAND THAT, THEN LEAVE.
I'M BUSY RIGHT NOW.
WHAT'S THAT?
WE ONLY "EXTRACTED" A VERY SMALL PORTION OF HER BRAIN — BARELY ENOUGH TO CREATE SUCH A HINDRANCE.
...
...IT'S JUST...

YOU'RE A RESEARCHER, AREN'T YOU?
BUT THE TRUTH OF THE MATTER IS THAT THE EXTRACTION HAS LEFT HER IMPAIRED...!
DARIN.
IF AN IMPAIRMENT HAS MANIFESTED ITSELF, THEN YOU ONLY NEED TO OBSERVE ITS PROGRESSION.
WHY ARE YOU LETTING YOURSELF GET CAUGHT UP IN PERSONAL FEELINGS?
...YOU'RE ONE TO TALK, CHIEF.
SQUEEZE

THE TRUTH IS...
...YOU NEVER HAD ANY INTENTION OF SAVING HER OR THAT CAT, DID YOU...?
BA-BUMP
NO.
THAT'S NOT ALL...
BUMP...
ALL THE ZOMBIES IN THE RESEARCH CENTER, TOO...! THAT'S RIGHT... SAVE FOR ONE.
YOU'RE ONE TO TALK, CHIEF...
YOU OF ALL PEOPLE, FATHER.
BA-BUMP
AREN'T YOU BRINGING YOUR PERSONAL FEELINGS INTO THIS...?

SLAP
DON'T CALL ME...
HAVEN'T I ALREADY TOLD YOU?
...AT "ZOMA," I AM THE CHIEF AND YOU, A RESEARCHER.
..."FATHER."

SKR...
...YES, SIR.
SK-SKR...
NGAUHH...
FWOOOOHH

GOD-DAM-MIT...
MUNCH MUNCH
NOW WHAT DO I DO...?
NO MATTER HOW I THINK ABOUT IT...
SKSHH...HH
...THIS MEANS WE WERE SET UP, DOESN'T IT...
CRACK!

ドドドド
ドドド

CRACK
AHHH...
CRACK
CRACK
turn
RUD
AH.
sorr...
RUSTL
THUD

RUSTL
RUSTL
...THAT I'D REALLY GET TO EXPERIENCE WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE IN A SCENE RIGHT OUT OF A MOVIE.
In a way, it's something I can brag about as a fan, though...
I MEAN, I NEVER IMAG-INED...
SMT!
SMT!
SMT!
IT REALLY IS... ALL THANKS TO THIS, ISN'T IT...?
glide...

O...pen
AT THAT TIME ...
...MAKING ME INTO A HALF-ZOMBIE.
...REA WAS WORRIED ABOUT MY SAFETY AND PUT SOME "POISON" INTO ME...

THEY MIGHT DO SOMETHING TO REA AND BUB AS WELL...
I HAVE TO HURRY BACK...
GRAB
WAFT
NGHUM..
CRRREE..
WOAH !!
TUG
WAIT A...
LEMME GO! H... HUH ?!
TUG
I'VE LOST MY POWER— THE POISON'S ALREADY LEFT MY SYSTEM ...!
a zombie girl...
AAAA
NNOOAHH
CRAP, THEY'RE START-ING TO GATHER AGAIN... !!
JOLT
SKR.. SK- SKR
SEKER!

...MISS ZOMBIE ...!!
SORRY ABOUT THIS ...
WHOOSH
SNAP
AAAHHH!!
AH!
CLATTER
WAH ?!
A slope ?!
CLATTER
CHITTER
SLIP

SKR SKR
...
OWW ...
HM ?
... WHAT'S THIS ...?
ROSA... LIE?
A GRAVE ...?!
ROSALIE IS THAT LITTLE GIRL ZOMBIE'S NAME...
...?!
THIS GRAVE ALSO HAS ROSALIE WRITTEN ON IT...
STAND
... NO.

Rosalie Arciento
September 3th 2007
December 3th 2007

Rosalie Arciento

Rosalie Arciento

Rosalie Arciento
July 20th 2007
September 26th 2007

Rosalie Arciento
October 16th 2005
December 22th 2005

Rosalie Arciento

Rosalie Arciento

Rosalie Arciento

WHAT IS THIS ...?
Rosalie Arcenta
Rosalie Arcenta
September 9th 2007
September 9th 2007
TAP
TAP

FLAP...
TOWA...
...
glide...
COME ON!

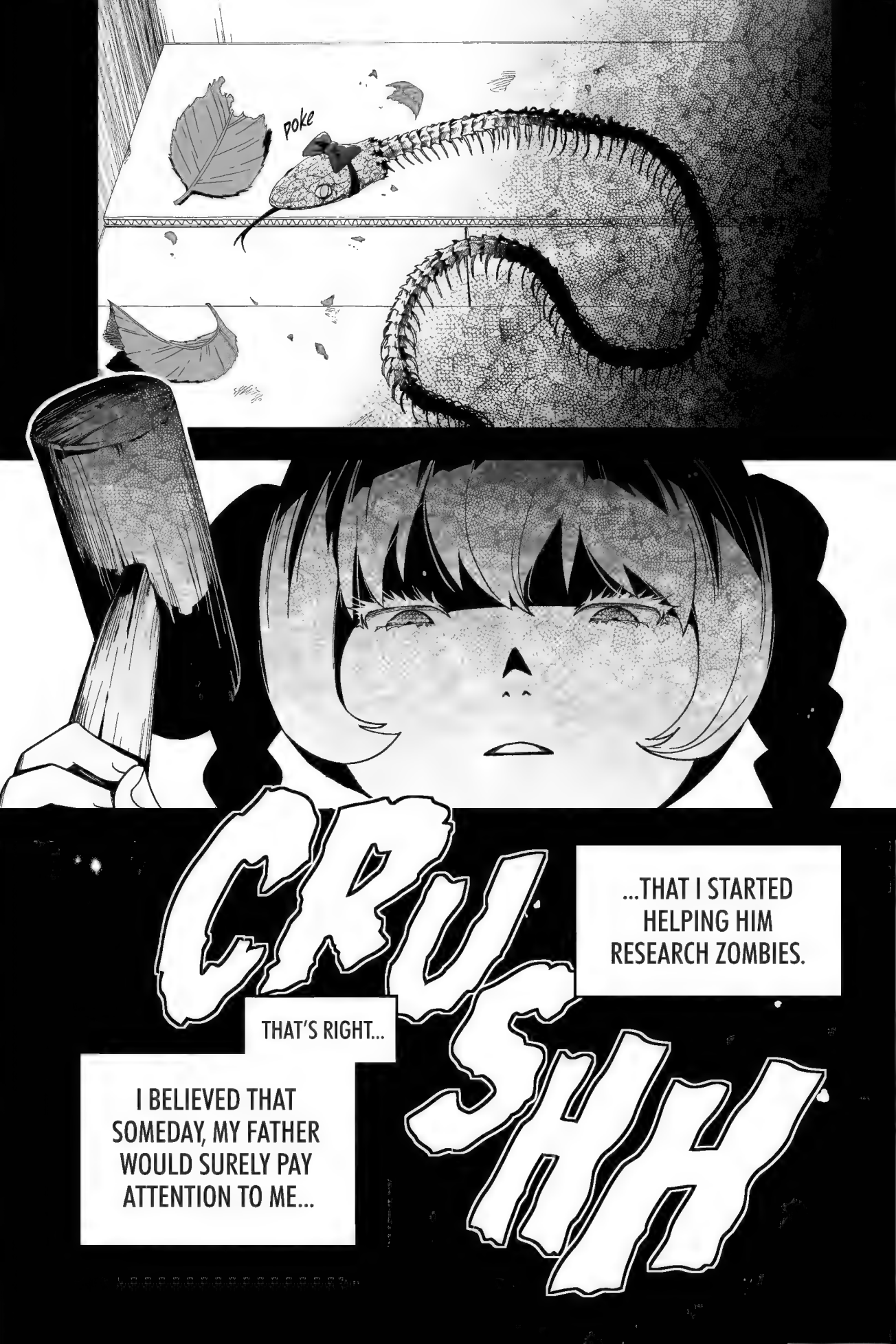
SINCE RETURNING TO ZOMA, THE SETTINGS OF THE CIRCUIT BOARD IN YOUR BRAIN...
...WERE SECRETLY CHANGED WITHOUT MY PERMISSION, WEREN'T THEY?
WHICH EXPLAINS WHY YOU...
...LET FURUYA DIE...
FLAP
AH...!
WAIT!
I'LL FIX YOUR SETTINGS...

SCREAM
FLAP

TOWA...
...
FATHER...
FATHER.
FATHER.
FATHER!!
CLK
Daddy
LOOK, LOOK! I DREW A PORTRAIT OF YOU!!

SPLISH
DARIN.
KHKWAH.
NGNAH.
YOU KNOW YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO COME IN WITHOUT PERMISSION.
...HM?
EWEEEE...

DADDY'S IN THE MIDDLE OF SOMETHING NOW.
I JUST GAVE YOU A NEW "TOY," DIDN'T I?
JUST PLAY WITH THAT.
Teddy
IN THE BEGINNING, I DIDN'T LIKE IT AT ALL.
IT WAS SOLELY...
...OUT OF THE PURE DESIRE FOR MY FATHER TO PAY ATTENTION TO ME...
RUSTLE...


poke
CRUSH
...THAT I STARTED HELPING HIM RESEARCH ZOMBIES.
THAT'S RIGHT...
I BELIEVED THAT SOMEDAY, MY FATHER WOULD SURELY PAY ATTENTION TO ME...

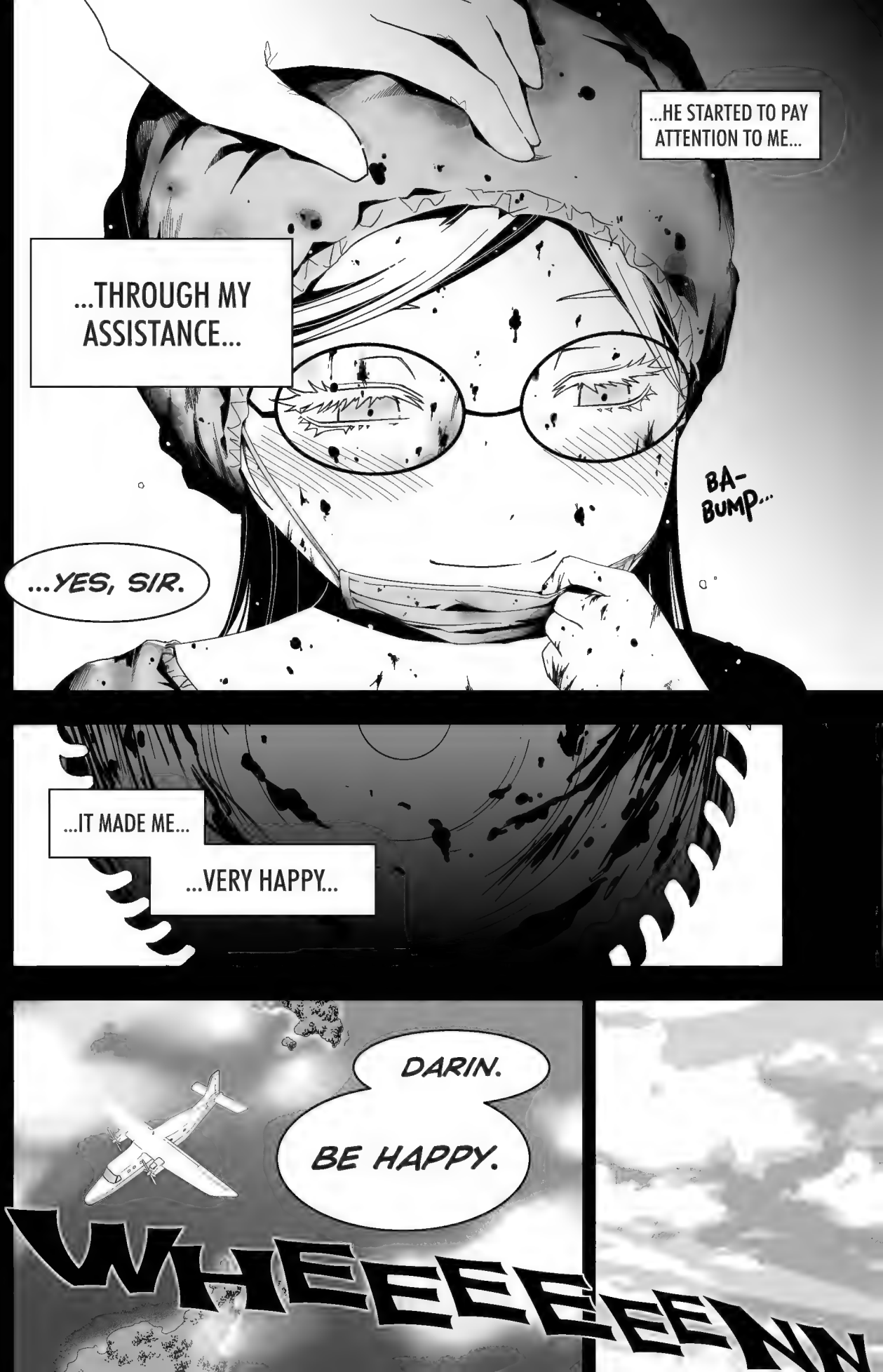
SANKAREA

36 THANK...YOU...

✦ ✦ ✦ ZONE OF THE DEAD ✦ ✦ ✦

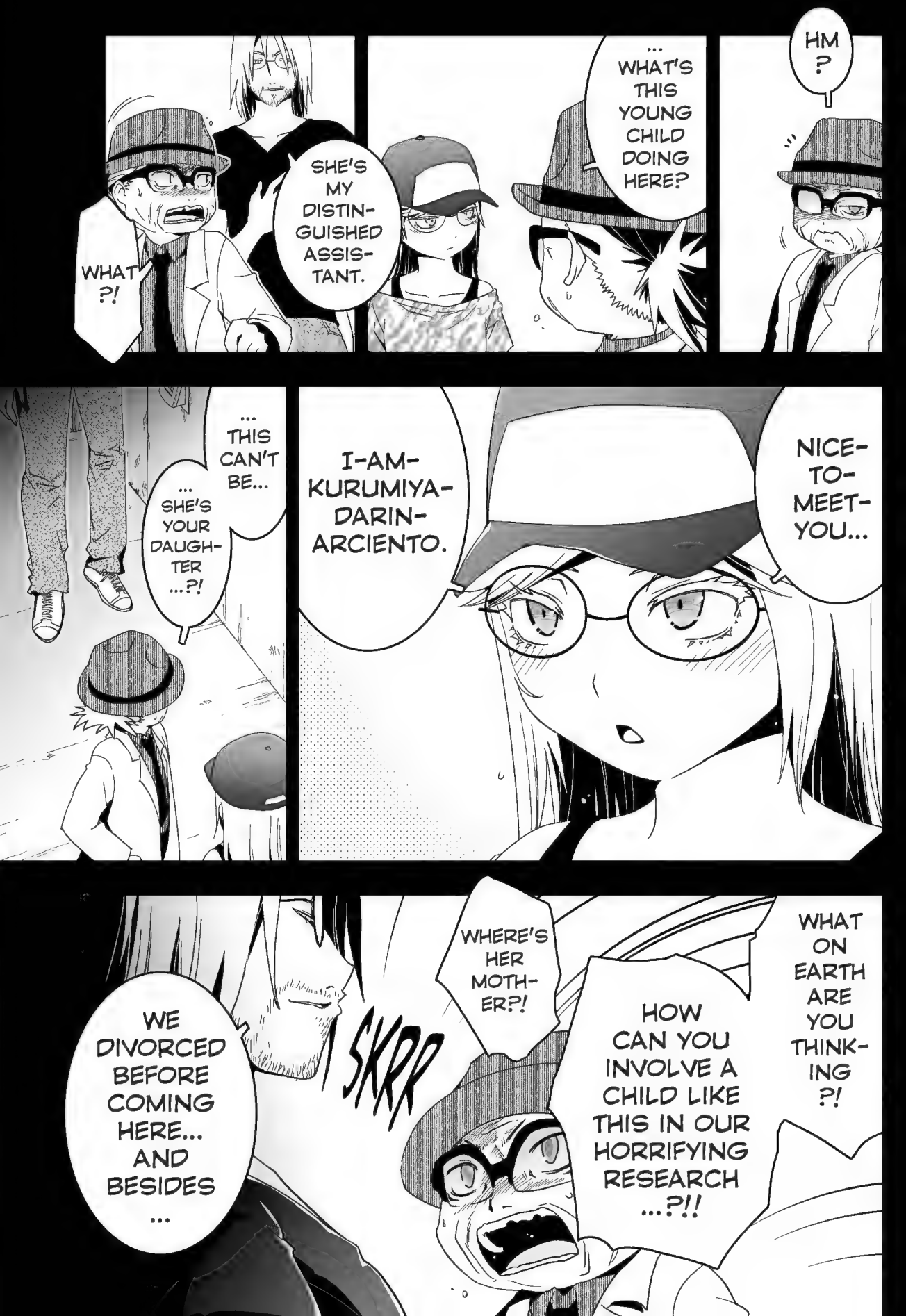
WHEN I WAS SIX, I VOLUNTEERED WITH MY FATHER...
AUH...
...AND I STARTED HELPING WITH HIS ZOMBIE RESEARCH.
AUHAA.
CAN YOU DO IT?
VOAHH.
DARIN, YOU GIVE IT A TRY.
I HAD STARTED GOING TO SCHOOL, BUT ON TOP OF HAVING NOTHING TO TALK ABOUT WITH MY CLASSMATES...
...YES, SIR.
GULP
CLICK
...I FOUND THE CONTENTS OF THE COURSES TO BE A WASTE OF TIME, SO I IMMERSED MYSELF EVEN FURTHER INTO MY RESEARCH.
OF COURSE.

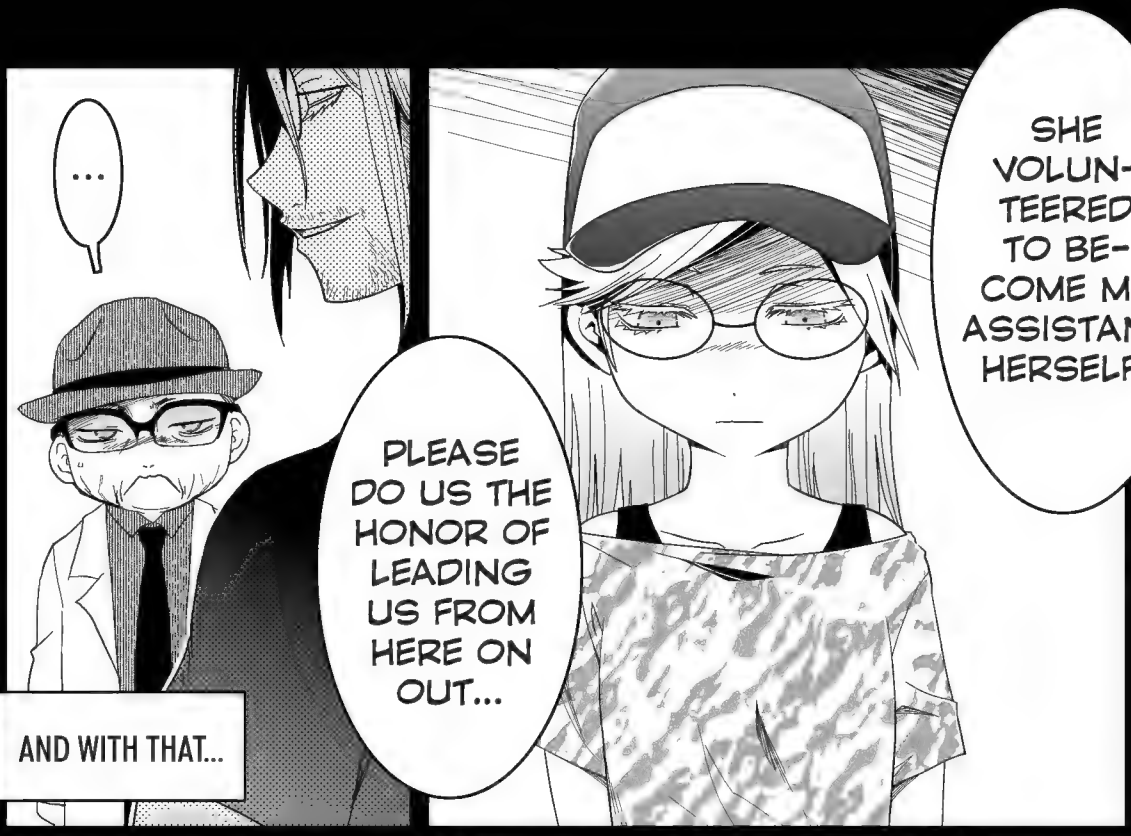
NHUU...
SKRREEE
...THE FACT THAT...
MORE THAN ANYTHING...
ZHR HR
huff
SLOWER.
OKAY, THAT'S GOOD...
YOU'RE GOING TOO FAR TO THE RIGHT. PULL UP A LITTLE...!
SPL SPLISH-
HR HR
huff
...WELL DONE.
PAT
YOU DID WELL FOR YOUR FIRST TIME.
huff
SKKRRRR
huff
huff
huff...
huff huff
TWITCH...
TWITCH
huff ...
huff...


...HE STARTED TO PAY ATTENTION TO ME...
...THROUGH MY ASSISTANCE...
BA-BUMP...
...YES, SIR.
...IT MADE ME...
...VERY HAPPY...
DARIN.
BE HAPPY.
WHEEE

AN AGE HAS COME WHERE SPECIALIZED MEDICAL ANTHROPOLOGISTS WHO HAD BEEN SCATTERED ALL THROUGH-OUT THE WORLD CAN NOW GATHER UNDER THE ROOF OF A SINGLE FACILITY IN JOINT RESEARCH.
CAN YOU SEE IT? IT'S THAT ISLAND OVER THERE.
GA-DUNK
GA-THUNK
FROM HERE ON OUT, WE'LL STUDY UNDER THE "PROFESSOR" WHO LAID THE GROUNDWORK FOR OUR RESEARCH...
WHEEEE
...AND FURTHER INVESTIGATE THE FIELD OF SPECIALIZED MEDICAL ANTHROPOLOGY.
GA- THUNK
...AH!
WE MEET AT LAST.

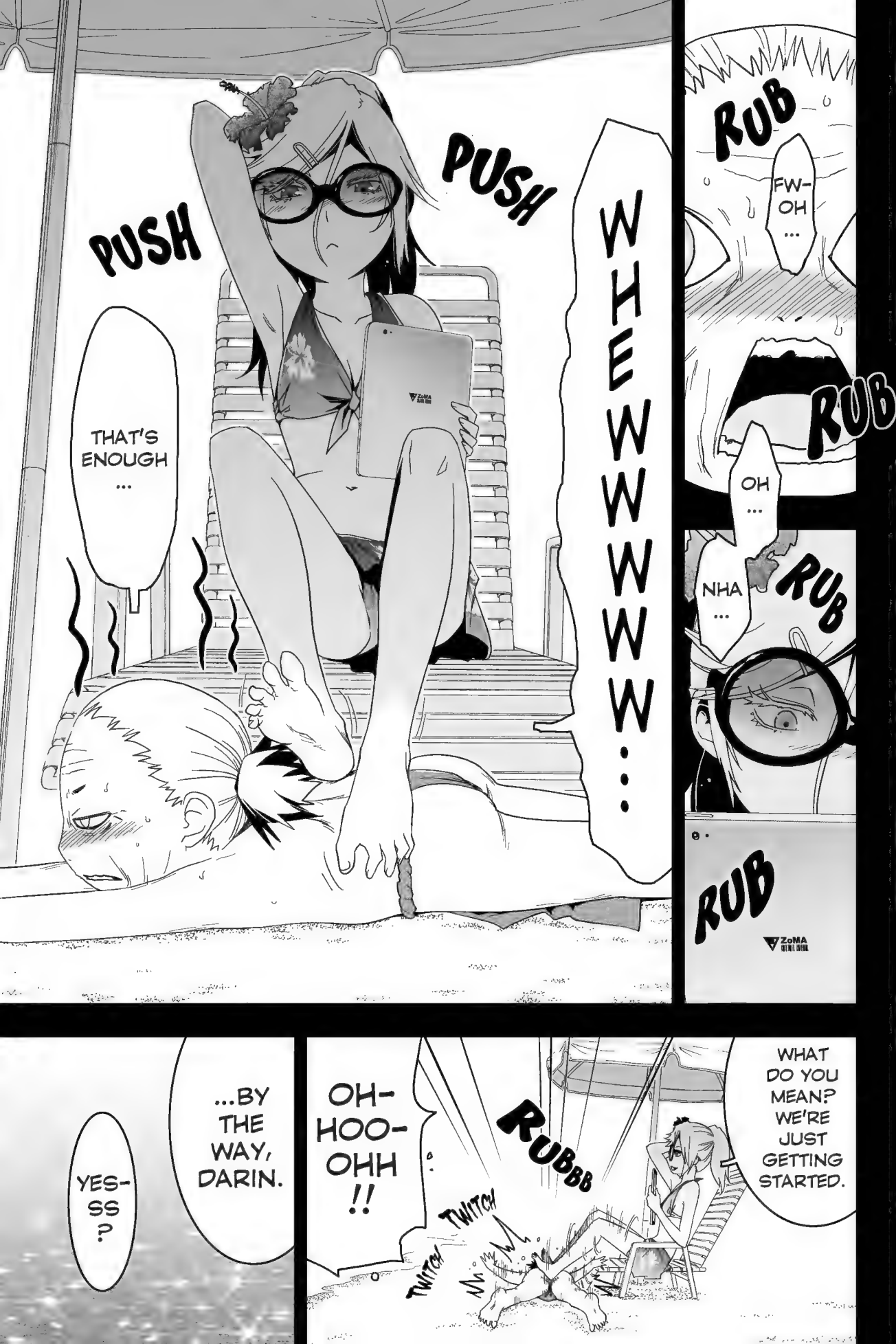
MUNCH...
HUNH ?
PROFESSOR BOYLE...!
WHASSAT? I DON'T UNDERSTAND FOREIGN LANGUAGES TOO WELL.
I'M HONORED TO MEET YOU.
OOPS, HOW RUDE OF ME...!
I SEE, SO YOU'RE SALVA.
...OHH.
I'VE HAD THE HONOR OF EXCHANGING INFORMATION WITH YOU FOR MANY YEARS VIA LETTER AND EMAIL.
IT'S ME, SALVA.


HM ?
... WHAT'S THIS YOUNG CHILD DOING HERE?
SHE'S MY DISTIN-GUISHED ASSIS-TANT.
WHAT ?!
NICE-TO-MEET-YOU...
I-AM-KURUMIYA-DARIN-ARCIENTO.
... THIS CAN'T BE...
... SHE'S YOUR DAUGH-TER ...?!
WHAT ON EARTH ARE YOU THINK-ING ?!
HOW CAN YOU INVOLVE A CHILD LIKE THIS IN OUR HORRIFYING RESEARCH ...?!!
WHERE'S HER MOTH-ER?!
SKRR
WE DIVORCED BEFORE COMING HERE... AND BESIDES ...



...FROM THAT POINT ON, I BEGAN MY DAYS OF LIVING UNDER THE SAME ROOF...

...WITH PROFESSOR BOYLE AND THE OTHER RESEARCHERS AT ZOMA.


PUSH
PUSH
WHEWWWWW...
THAT'S ENOUGH ...
RUB
FW-OH ...
RUB
OH ...
NHA ...
RUB
RUB
WHAT DO YOU MEAN? WE'RE JUST GETTING STARTED.
RUBBB
TWITCH
TWITCH
OH-HOO-OHH !!
...BY THE WAY, DARIN.
YES-SS ?

MUNCH
MUNCH
MUNCH
I DON'T REALLY MIND ...
I HAVE PETS, AND BEING WITH THE ZOMBIES IS ENOUGH TO KEEP ME FROM BEING LONELY.
YOU PROBABLY WON'T BE ABLE TO MAKE ANY FRIENDS CLOSE TO YOUR AGE HERE ON THE ISLAND.
HOW DID YOU END UP HELPING OUT WITH THIS RESEARCH ?

NEITHER MY MOTHER OR FATHER WERE LOOKING FORWARD TO MY BIRTH OR ANYTHING.
I DON'T MEAN TO SPEAK POORLY OF YOUR FLESH AND BLOOD, BUT THAT MAN...
pat
pat

...IS IT SO THAT SALVA WILL PAY ATTEN-TION TO YOU ...?

TO BEGIN WITH, MY FATHER MARRIED MY MOTHER, WHO WAS A BUSINESS-WOMAN, BECAUSE HE WAS AFTER RESEARCH FUNDING.
MY BIRTH WAS JUST A PRETENSE TO CONVINCE THE RELATIVES ...
I HEARD THAT ...
...FROM MY MOM, RIGHT BEFORE THE DIVORCE.
...!
WE LIVED APART FROM MY MOTHER AND HARDLY SAW HER...
MY FATHER AND I LIVED TOGETHER, JUST THE TWO OF US, BUT HE WAS ALWAYS IMMERSED IN HIS RESEARCH AND NEVER EVEN ONCE DEALT WITH ME AS A FATHER.
...
IS THAT SO ...
SO THAT'S WHY... HM?

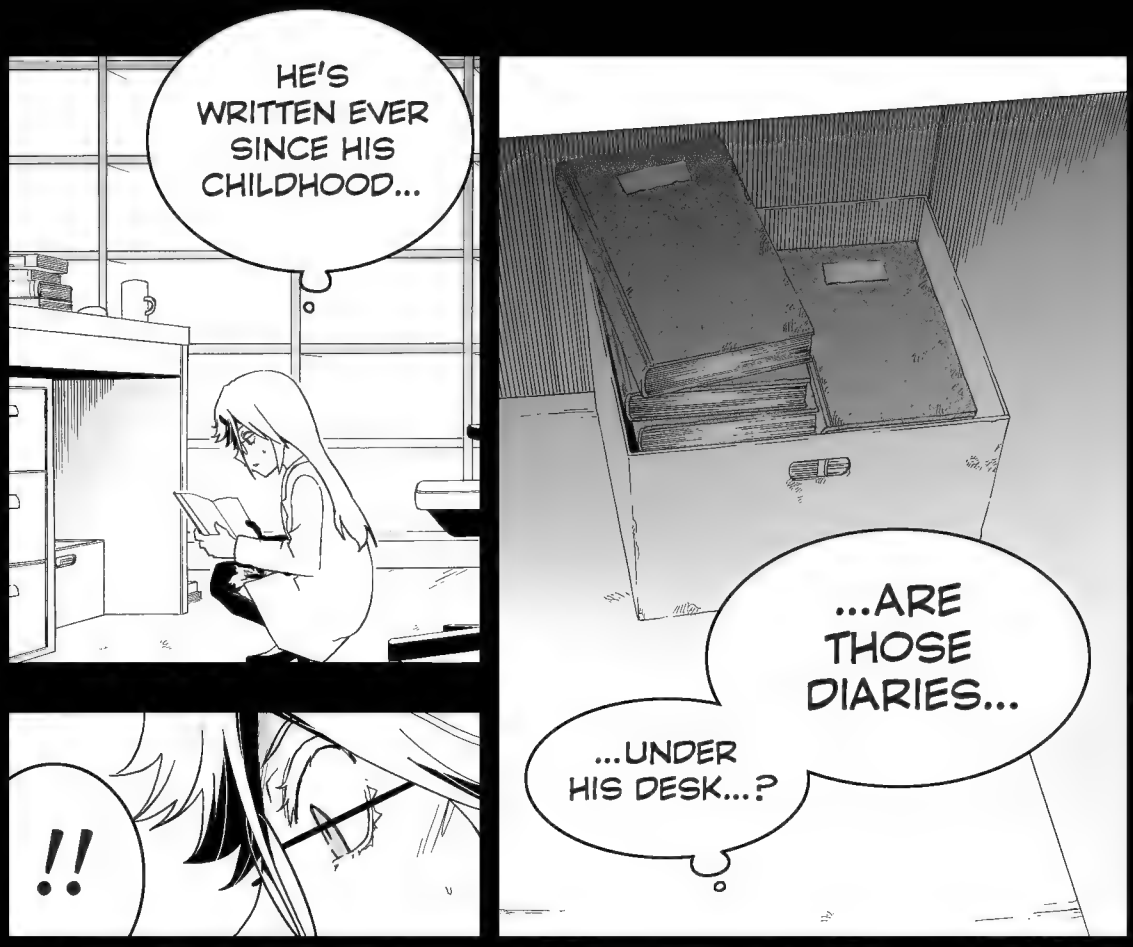
...BUT...
...BY HELPING WITH HIS RESEARCH...
...I WAS ABLE TO FEEL AS THOUGH IN THOSE "MOMENTS" THAT MY EMOTIONS REACHED A MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING WITH MY FATHER...
THAT'S RIGHT... THAT WAS ALL I NEEDED...
...TO MAKE ME FEEL... SATISFIED...
CLANG
HMMH-HH...
WHAT A TRAGEDY THIS IS...
THE RESEARCH FACILITY WOULD HAVE A COUPLE OF "DONATIONS" FROM AN ANONYMOUS COLLABORATOR BROUGHT IN ON A REGULAR BASIS.
"IT" WAS ALSO ONE OF THOSE BODIES.
CLATTER
CLATTER
CLATTER

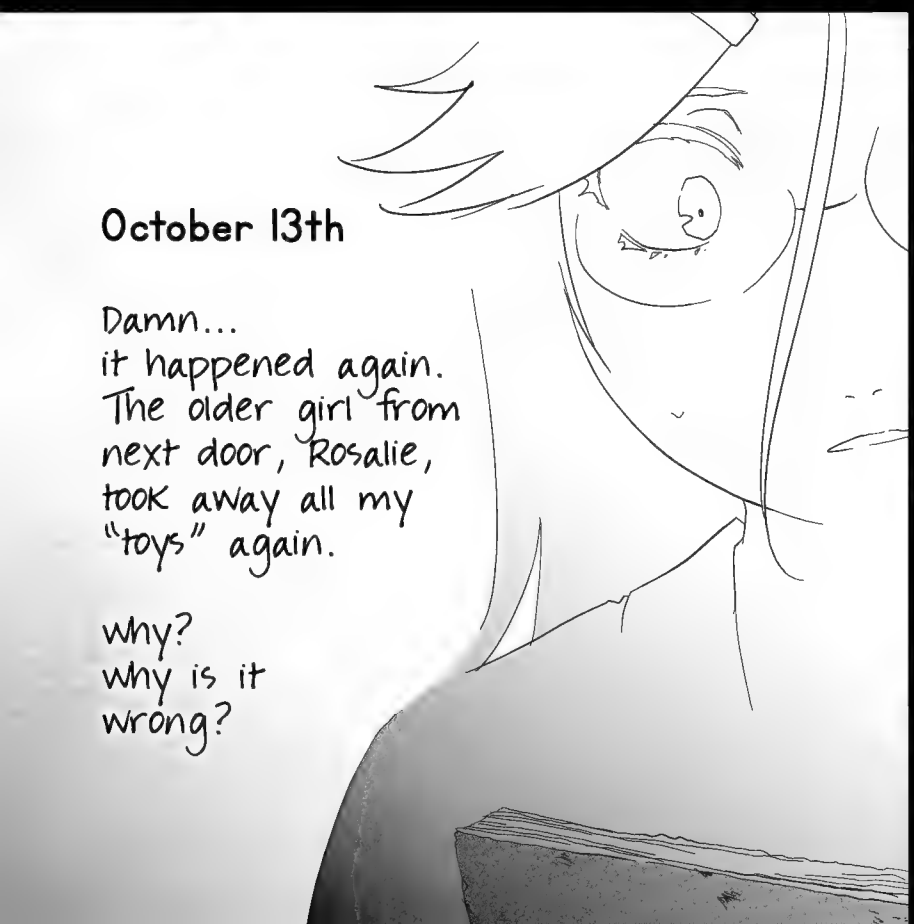
FOR THEM TO SEND US SUCH A YOUNG CHILD ...
WE'RE PROHIBITED FROM ASKING QUESTIONS, BUT I WONDER HOW ON EARTH SHE ENDED UP REDUCED TO SUCH A STATE...
...AND BROUGHT HERE AS A "DONATION" ...?
EVEN I FEEL HESITATION ABOUT DOING SOMETHING TO THIS CHILD...
BUMP...

huff
huff
...
...
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
AH ...
IT'S NOTHING...
shuffle...
HM?
FROM THAT DAY ON...
...IT WAS LIKE FATHER...
HEHE.
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
...WAS POSSESSED...

LOOK, I'LL PUT IT IN YOUR MOUTH.
WEH?
OPEN WIDE.
ROSALIE...
NHUU...
YOU DON'T WANT TO EAT?
THAT'S RIGHT... GOOD GIRL.
MUNCH
MUNCH
GOING AGAINST THE PROFESSOR'S OBJECTIONS, HE ENDED UP CARING FOR THE YOUNG GIRL THEY ZOMBIFIED...
JUST LIKE...
SPLAT
NWOEHH...
OH DEAR, YOU'VE SPAT IT OUT AGAIN...
...SHE WAS HIS OWN DAUGHTER... NO, HE SHOWERED HER WITH EVEN MORE AFFECTION THAN THAT.

...WHY?
WHY...
...CAN'T HE TREAT ME LIKE THAT...?
I CAME TO KNOW THE REASON FOR THAT...
THUMP
...WHEN MY FATHER WAS AWAY ON BUSINESS AND I HAPPENED TO GO INTO HIS STUDY TO DROP OFF SOME DOCUMENTS.

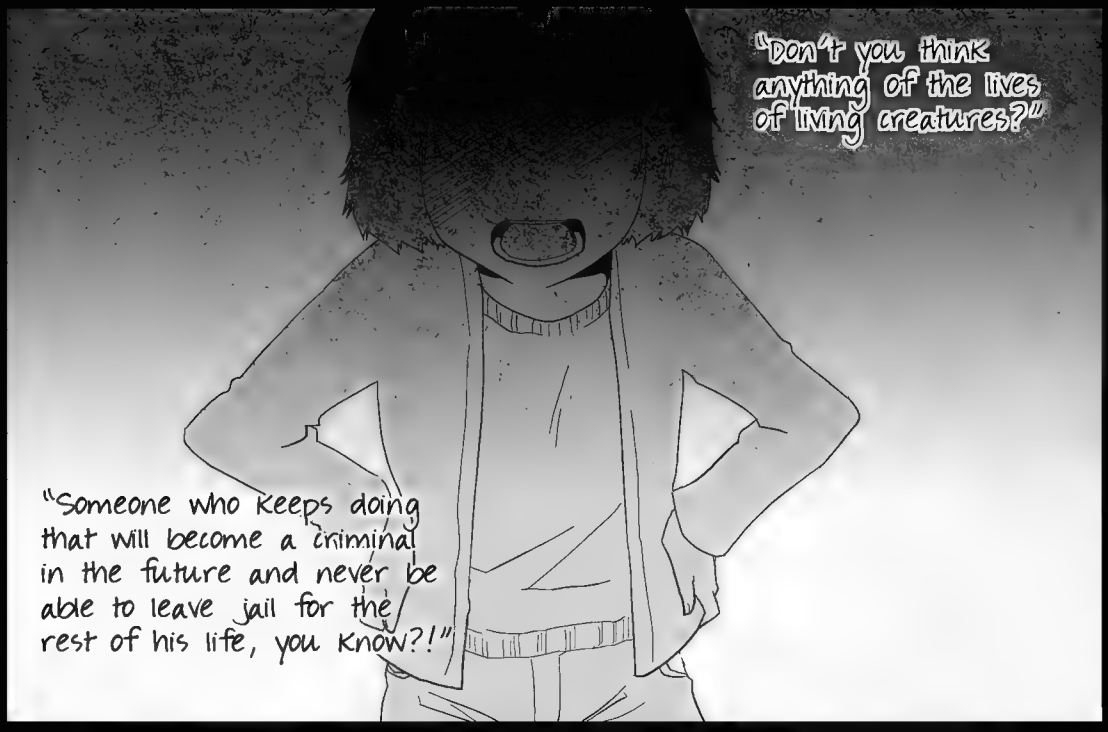

HE'S WRITTEN EVER SINCE HIS CHILDHOOD...
!!
...ARE THOSE DIARIES...
...UNDER HIS DESK...?


October 13th
Damn...
it happened again.
The older girl from next door, Rosalie, took away all my "toys" again.
why?
why is it wrong?

ROSALIE
"ROSALIE"...!

I had pulled out the "toys' batteries."
I only did it to make them easy to play with...

She always says the same thing.
"You're doing that again?!"


"Don't you think anything of the lives of living creatures?"
"Someone who keeps doing that will become a criminal in the future and never be able to leave jail for the rest of his life, you know?!"

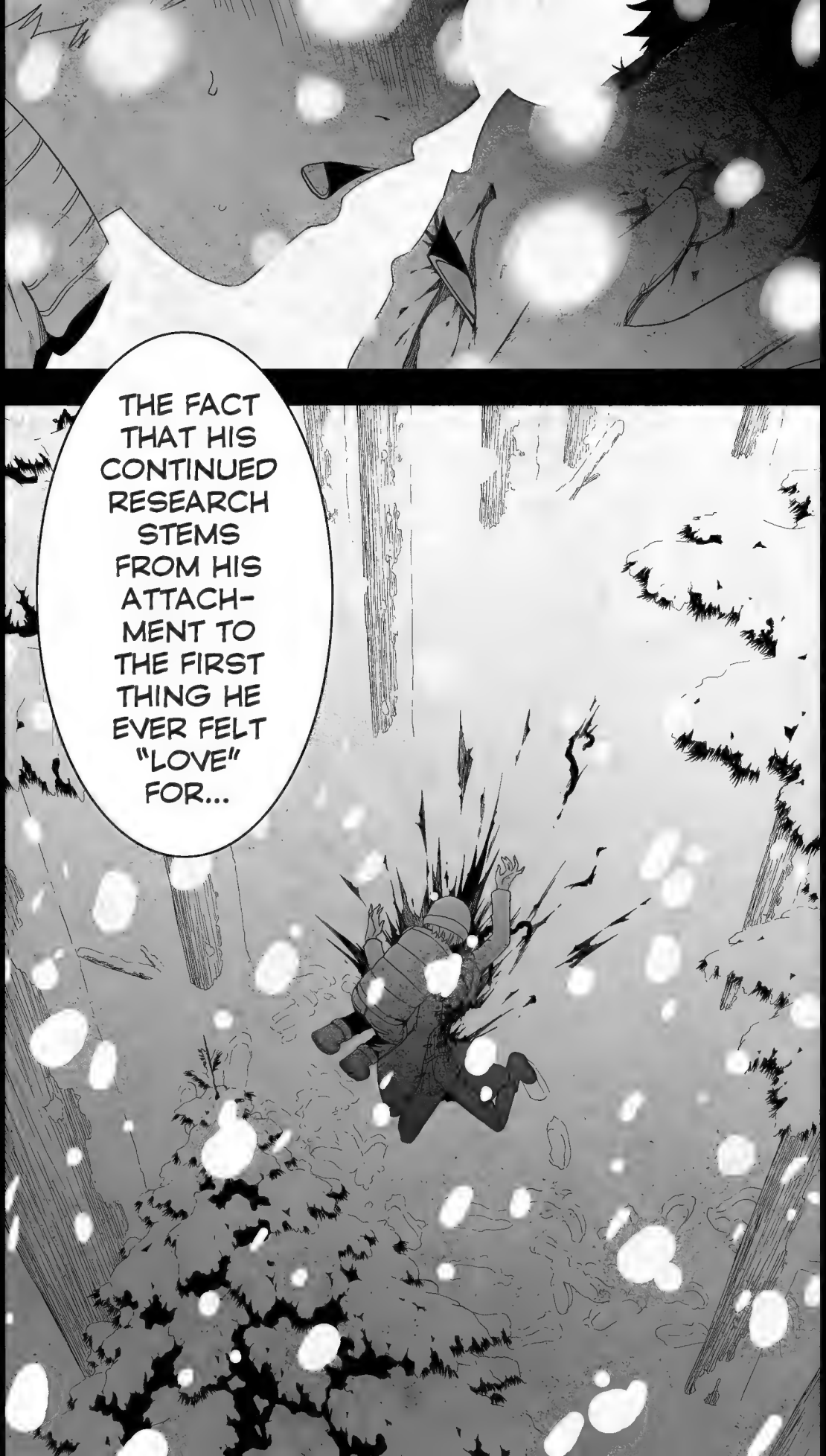
...I won't turn out like that.
I mean, I "understand" what I'm doing...

January 13th
I recently tried catching it, and it ran away, but I'm sure today will be fine.
Because today...
...I have this...

"What are you doing?!"
She had followed me all the way from the garage that day...!!
And then...
...it turned into a scuffle...
...and when she pulled it...
BLAM

SHUT...
...
SO ...
... NOW YOU KNOW ...
...WHY HE STARTED DOWN THIS PATH...
...HE'S BEEN "SICK" FROM THE TIME HE WAS YOUNG.
HE HAS A "SICK-NESS" WHERE HE HAS NO INTEREST IN LIVING THINGS...

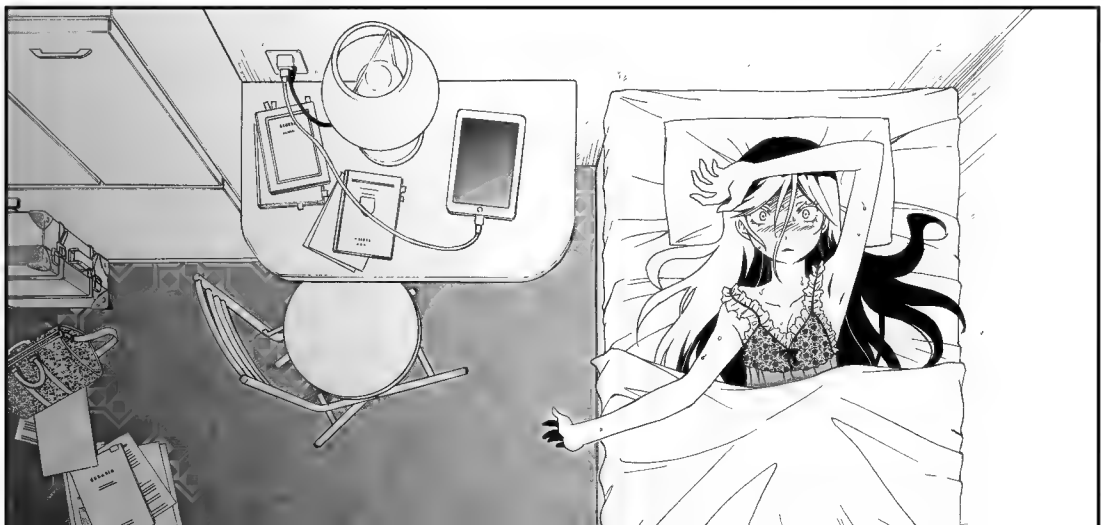
AND... LIKELY DUE TO THAT DONATION OF THE YOUNG GIRL THAT WAS BROUGHT HERE THE OTHER DAY...
...HE'S PROBABLY BECOME AWARE OF WHAT HE HAD BEEN SUBCON-SCIOUSLY DESIRING UP UNTIL NOW... YES.


THE FACT THAT HIS CONTINUED RESEARCH STEMS FROM HIS ATTACH-MENT TO THE FIRST THING HE EVER FELT "LOVE" FOR...

AFTER THAT, FATHER PREPARED ALL THE JUVENILE DONATIONS IN THE STYLE OF "ROSALIE."
HE EVEN SPENDS HIS PERSONAL TIME WITH THEM AND HAS CONTINUED TO EARNESTLY DOTE ON THEM UP TO THIS VERY DAY....
IN THE END...
...NO MATTER HOW MUCH TIME I SPEND NEXT TO HIM AS A RESEARCHER...
...FATHER MAY NEVER GIVE ME ANY OF HIS REAL AFFECTION...
NEVER...

KREE
EVER...
THAT'S RIGHT...
I STILL HAVE YOU, DON'T I...?
COO...
EVEN SO...
TOWA...
...LESS...
SHUDDER...
...I STILL FEEL THAT BY EARNING HIS RECOGNITION THROUGH MY RESEARCH, SOMEDAY... SOMEDAY...
...HE MIGHT GIVE ME HIS ATTENTION...

SKREEEE
IT'S POINTLESS.



...
SQUEEZE...
STARE...
CLK
TAP
TAP
TAP
TAP

WAH !!
...WHY ARE YOU UNDRESSED LIKE THAT?
HUH... UM, I WAS THINKING ABOUT...
... TAKING A BATH WITH BUB-CHAN...
WHY DO YOU WANT TO TAKE BATHS SO OFTEN?! YOU DON'T EVEN NEED TO!
HUHH ? WHY NOT ?!
THIS ROOM DOESN'T HAVE A BATHROOM IN THE FIRST PLACE.

Yaayy
... WELL, FINE.
I'LL LEND YOU THE SHOWER IN MY ROOM.
... BUT ...
...WHY DO I HAVE TO TAKE A SHOWER TOO?
SSSH
HM, ISN'T IT MORE FUN FOR EVERYONE TO GO IN TOGETHER ?
RIGHT ?
SCRUB
SCRUB
HEHEHE

I CAN'T EVEN TELL IF THE WATER IN THE BATH IS WARM OR COLD.
SCRUB
THOUGH BUB-CHAN AND I ARE BADLY HURT, IT'S SOME-HOW NOT PAINFUL AT ALL, IS IT?
SCRUB
SSSSSHH
I MEAN, EVEN THOUGH SHE'S FORGOTTEN ABOUT ME AND THE FACT THAT SHE'S A ZOMBIE, IT SEEMS LIKE SHE REMEMBERS THE CAT'S NAME.
I WONDER JUST HOW MUCH OF HER MEMORY IS MISSING ...?
BUT WELL, WHATEVER. HEHE.
...BECAUSE I WANTED TO GET MY FATHER'S ATTENTION...
...WAS BECAUSE OF THE POSSIBILITY THAT SHE WAS A NEW TYPE OF ZOMBIE...
AND...
THE REASON I BROUGHT HER TO ZOMA...
H
H
H
H
H

...
BECAUSE OF THAT...
...TO BRING HER TO ZOMA...
!!
...ACTUALLY GOOD...
...HAVE DOUBTS DEEP IN MY HEART ABOUT WHETHER IT WAS...
...I...
HHHH
HHHH

SQUEEZE♥
MM…
HWA?! WAIT JUST A SEC…?!

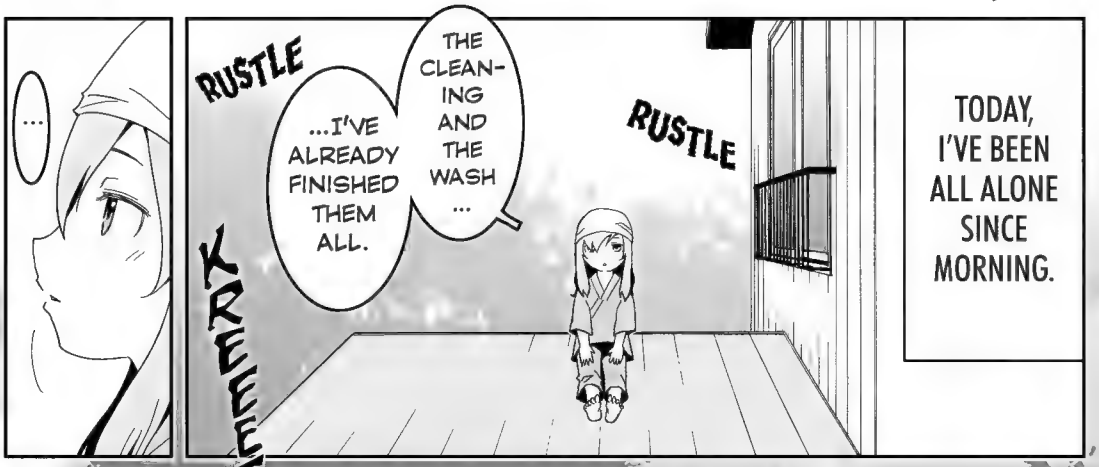
I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU ...
...BUT WHEN YOU'RE SAD OR IN PAIN, YOU SHOULD JUST LET YOUR FEELINGS OUT...
BA-BUMP
... INSTEAD OF HIDING THEM AWAY.
SEE, UHHM, I REMEMBER SEEING OR HEARING THAT SOMEWHERE BEFORE...
SOMETHING LIKE THE STORY OF A GIRL WHO ALWAYS SHOUTED HER COMPLAINTS INTO A WELL...
ANY-WAY.
THE POINT IS IT'S IMPORTANT NOT TO KEEP THEM STASHED AWAY INSIDE YOU!
...

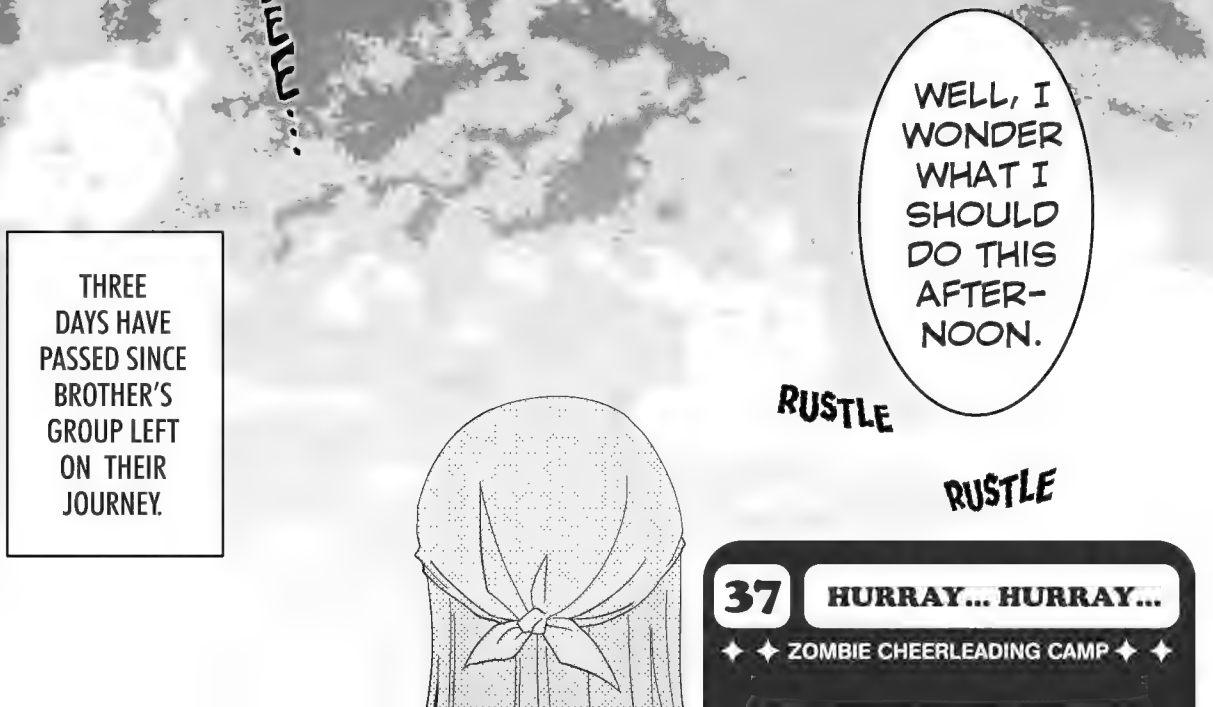
EVEN THOUGH... SHE'S FORGOTTEN ME...
YOU'RE ALWAYS WITH ME, AREN'T YOU...
HUH?
...
SSSHHHHH
RUSTL
RUSTL
DAM-MIT...
THANK YOU...

WHERE THE HELL IS THE ENTRANCE TO THE RESEARCH FACILITY ...?!
I HAVE TO FIGURE SOME-THING OUT BEFORE NIGHT FALLS...
THIS IS NO TIME... FOR ME TO STOP HERE...
GRIP
UNH!
again...
SSSSSSSHHHHHH
GR...
GRAND-PA?!

Mitsuru Hattori presents
SANKAREA

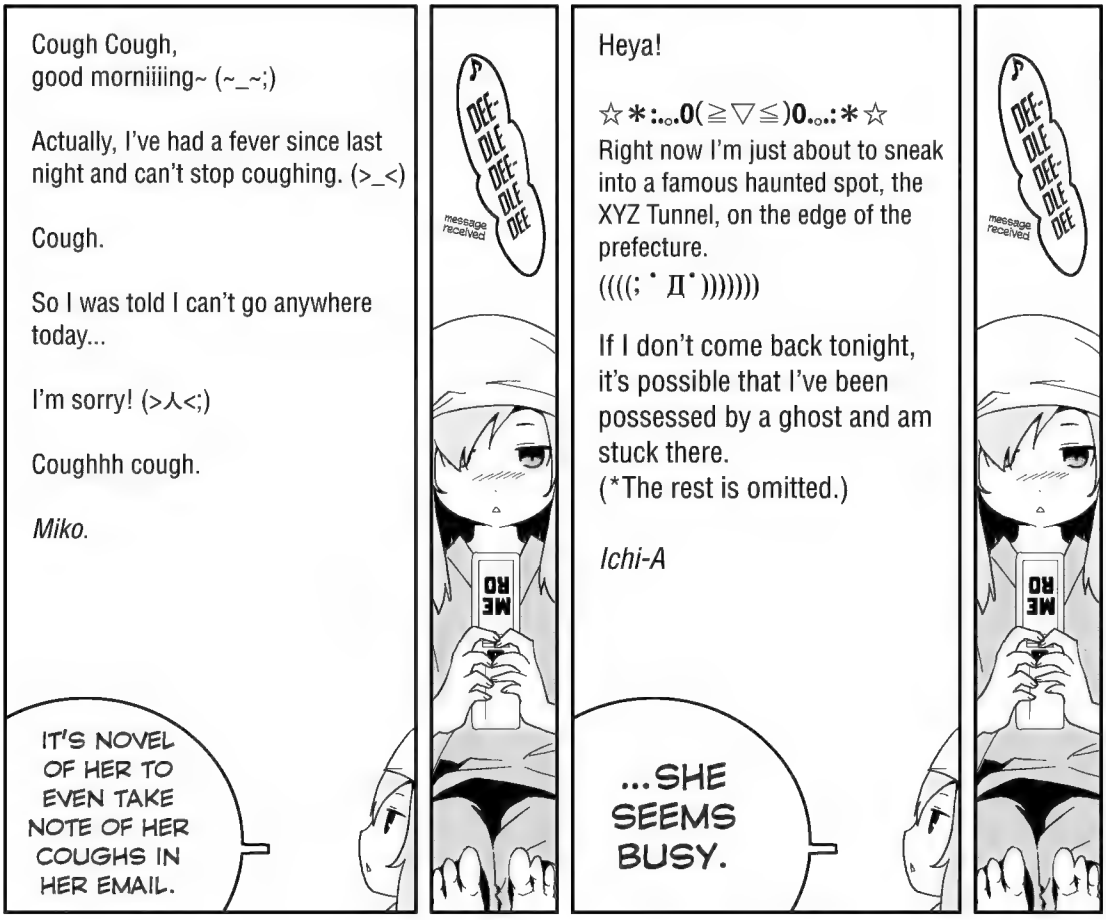
WHEW ...
KREEEE
KREEEEKK

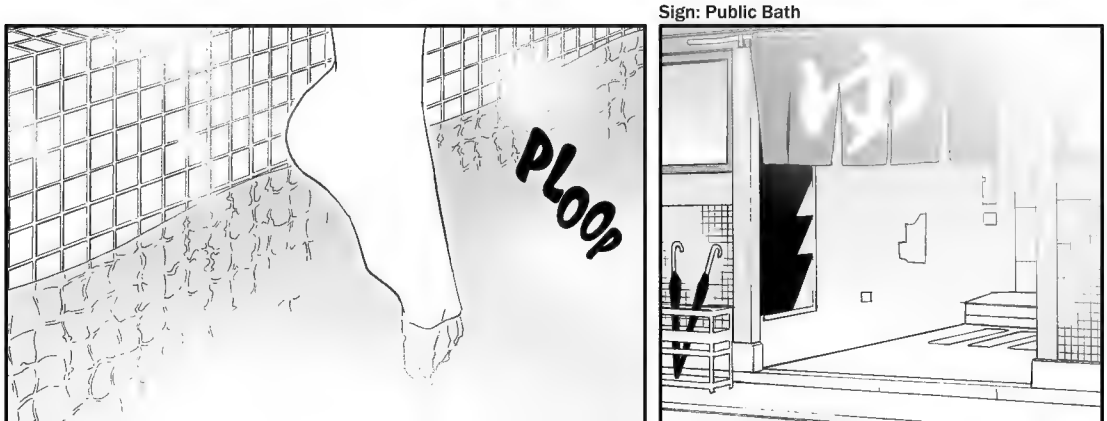

...
RUSTLE
...I'VE ALREADY FINISHED THEM ALL.
THE CLEANING AND THE WASH ...
RUSTLE
TODAY, I'VE BEEN ALL ALONE SINCE MORNING.
KREEEEEEE...


THREE DAYS HAVE PASSED SINCE BROTHER'S GROUP LEFT ON THEIR JOURNEY.
WELL, I WONDER WHAT I SHOULD DO THIS AFTERNOON.
RUSTLE
RUSTLE

POSSIBLY OUT OF CONCERN FOR ME, WANKO-DONO HAS RECENTLY BEEN COMING TO STAY OVER EVERY NIGHT.
SCRUB
SCRUB
A FEW DAYS AGO, GRANDPA ALSO...
...WENT TO SEE AN OLD ACQUAINTANCE, AND IT LOOKS LIKE HE WON'T BE BACK FOR A WHILE.
I'll be back!
I wonder if he'll be okay...
I'll be late tonight, so there's no need to make dinner.
FATHER WENT OUT TO PERFORM FUNERAL RITES EARLY IN THE MORNING, AND IT SEEMS HE WON'T BE BACK UNTIL LATE AT NIGHT.
OUR HOME HAD BEEN AWFULLY LIVELY IN RECENT DAYS, DUE TO THE INCREASED NUMBER OF PEOPLE STAYING HERE...
SCRUB
SCRUB
SCRUB
SCRUB
SCRUB
SCRUB
GOT ANY ITCHY SPOTS?
NOT PARTI-CU-LARLY.
HM?
MAYBE WANKO-DONO IS LONELY TOO...?
...NO.

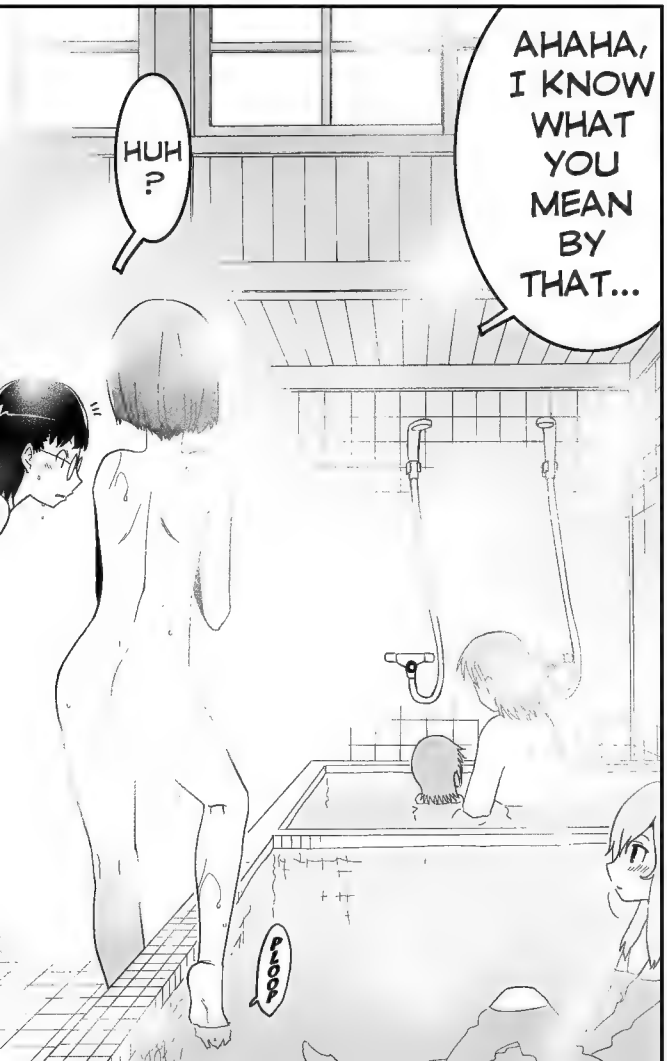
AND THAT VERY WANKO-DONO LEFT FOR AN IMPORTANT, REGIONAL TENNIS CLUB TOURNAMENT EARLY THIS MORNING.
HOW ABOUT INVITING EVERYONE TO GO TO A PUBLIC BATH BEFORE I GO SHOPPING ?
BEEP
message sent
Ichie-dono, Miko-dono.
I'm considering taking my ease at the public baths after this. How about it, everyone? (・x・)
Furuya Mero


Cough Cough, good morniiiing~ (~_~;)
Actually, I've had a fever since last night and can't stop coughing. (>_<)
Cough.
So I was told I can't go anywhere today...
I'm sorry! (>人<;)
Coughhh cough.
Miko.
IT'S NOVEL OF HER TO EVEN TAKE NOTE OF HER COUGHS IN HER EMAIL.
♪ DEE- DLE DEE- DLE DEE
message received
ME RO
Heya!
☆*:.。0(≧▽≦)0。.:*☆
Right now I'm just about to sneak into a famous haunted spot, the XYZ Tunnel, on the edge of the prefecture.
((((; ゜Д゜))))))
If I don't come back tonight, it's possible that I've been possessed by a ghost and am stuck there.
(*The rest is omitted.)
Ichi-A
...SHE SEEMS BUSY.
♪ DEE- DLE DEE- DLE DEE
message received
ME RO


PLOOP
Sign: Public Bath

DA-KU-KUN, DON'T RUN!
SLAP
SLAP
SLAP
YAA-YY, IT'S SO BIIG!
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I'VE COME HERE ALONE...
PLOOP
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT...
...THE FIRST PERSON WHO TOOK ME TO A PUBLIC BATH WAS MY BIG BROTHER...
Ah, that's ...
TWITCH
TWITCH
Tehehe, we have to get you clean here too...
Wah, Big Sis... why are you touching me there ...?
Well, let's get your body washed.
I've got you !!
WHEN MOTHER HAD JUST PASSED AWAY, I WAS STILL YOUNG...
How inter-esting. How inter-esting.
Ah, hey!
If you're wasteful, Dad will scold you later!!
...SO BROTHER DID ALL SORTS OF THINGS TO TAKE CARE OF ME...
SPLOO
SPLOO
Hey!
Rea!

Hmm... I want to try this too, but the color and scent are just a little too much for everyday life...
You're not fine! Come on... Take just a little bit better care of your body!
The sunlight is strong today, so make sure you're using the parasol!
Huh? I'll be fine for a little while.
Don't you... don't you have something different...?


HUH?
AHAHA, I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN BY THAT...
PLOOP

...HIS WAY OF TAKING RESPONSIBILITY AND STICKING THROUGH TO THE END IS...
NORMALLY, HE'S LAZY, BUT ONCE HE DECIDES HOW SOMETHING SHOULD BE...
IT HASN'T CHANGED BETWEEN THEN AND NOW.
heh...

HUH?
HAVEN'T I... MET YOU SOME-WHERE...?
...OH!

WA HA HA HA HA

Sign: Yakimon Horumon
I SEE, SO YOU REALLY ARE THE YOUNGER SISTER OF THE GUY WHO STOLE REA-SAMA AWAY FROM DANICHIROH-SAMA!
THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR GIVING MY BROTH-ER MEDICAL TREATMENT THAT TIME.
IT WAS NOTHING AT ALL. DESPITE HOW I MAY LOOK, I'VE ACTUALLY GOT A LI-CENSE TO PRACTICE MEDICINE!

Sip
NOT SO MUCH A TRIP... THEY WENT TO A FACILITY ABROAD TO GET MEDICAL TREATMENT FOR OUR CAT...
THE OTHER DAY, REA-SAMA CAME HOME TO GET HER PASSPORT. DID THE TWO OF THEM HAPPEN TO GO ON A TRIP ABROAD TOGETHER OR SOMETHING?
ANYWAY, THAT DUEL WAS THRILLING. THAT GUY DID WELL!
AND I START WORK AFTER THIS, BUT I'M STILL DRINKING! HEHE.
HIMURO AND I ARE JUST GETTING OFF OF A NIGHT SHIFT, SO...
AH ... NO.
BY THE WAY, DO ALL OF YOU ALWAYS START DRINKING IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DAY LIKE THIS?
SKRR...
I THINK ...
BUT ANYWAY, HOW LONG DO YOU THINK WE HAVE LEFT UNTIL DANICHI-ROH-SA-MA COMES HOME...?
ARIA-SAMA IS A NIGHT OWL, SO IT'S SO DIFFICULT TO KEEP UP WITH HER...
WHILE DANICHI-ROH-SAMA IS AWAY FROM THE HOUSE, OUR WORK HOURS HAVE CHANGED...

SHOCK
!!
HOW DIS-GRACE-FUL!!
OH... SA-TSUKI-SAN...
COME ON... HOW CAN THE SANKA FAMILY'S MAIDS SPREAD THE ESTATE'S BUSINESS AROUND OUTSIDE...?!
BOW
BOW
P... PLEASE FORGIVE US...!!
YOU KNOW... FROM WHEN WE WENT TO THAT GUY'S HOUSE FOR HIS MEDICAL TREATMENT ...
FURUYA CHIHIRO'S YOUNGER SISTER, MERO.
nod
WHY ...
YOU'RE ...

POOFF...
SHE'S RA-THER ...
?
H... MM.
AHH... THE GIRL FROM THAT TIME...
STARE...
WHAT PERFECT TIMING. THERE'S SOMEWHERE I HAVE TO GO NOW...
I WONDER IF I SHOULDN'T HAVE THE FOUR OF YOU COME WITH ME ...?
turn
CLA-CLA-CLACK
HUH... WHERE TO? OR RATHER, WHY US, TOO...?
IT WILL JUST BE FOR A LITTLE BIT...
grin...
I'M GOING TO RETRAIN YOUR HEARTS AND BODIES.
UH ...
Why...
...me, too...?

WHISTLE

OHHHLÉ !!

FIGHT !

EVERY-ONEEE !!

SANKA GIRLS'... TENNIS... WELL THEN.

...WE'RE GOING TO GIVE OUR SUPPORT TO THE SANKA GIRLS' TENNIS CLUB THAT SHE'S A PART OF.

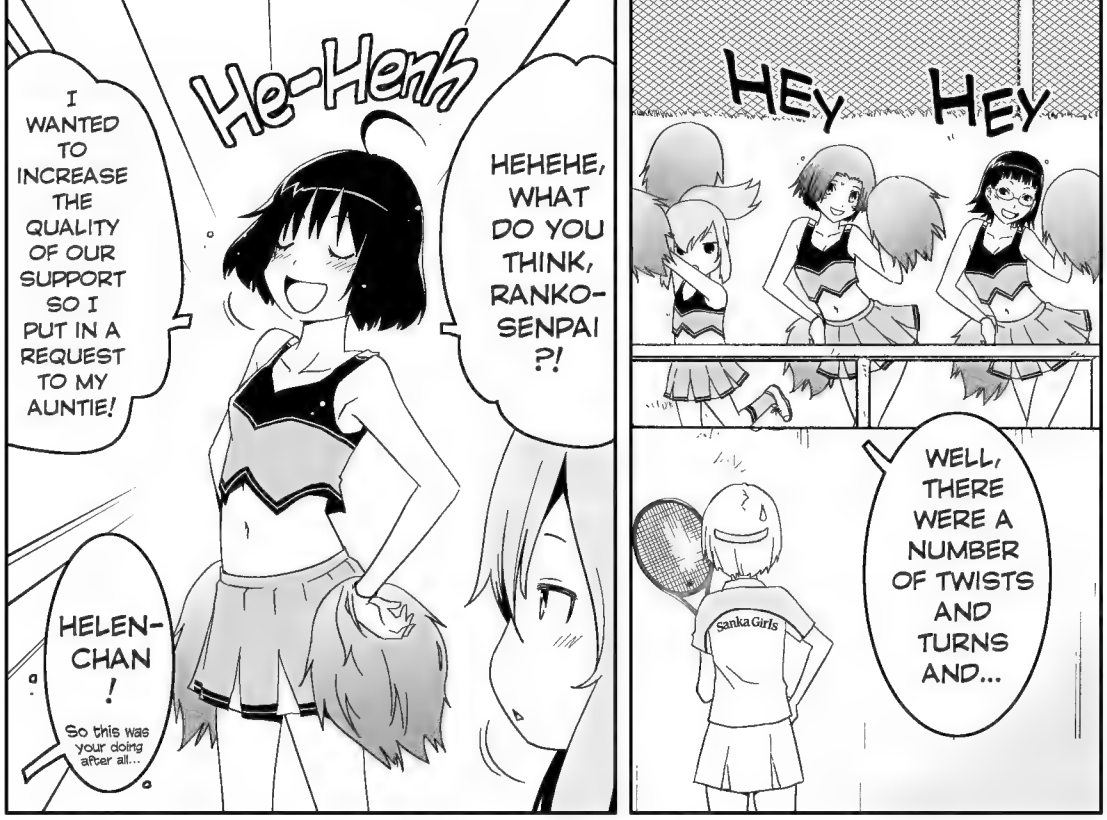
SO TODAY, DUE TO A REQUEST FOR HELP FROM MY NIECE...

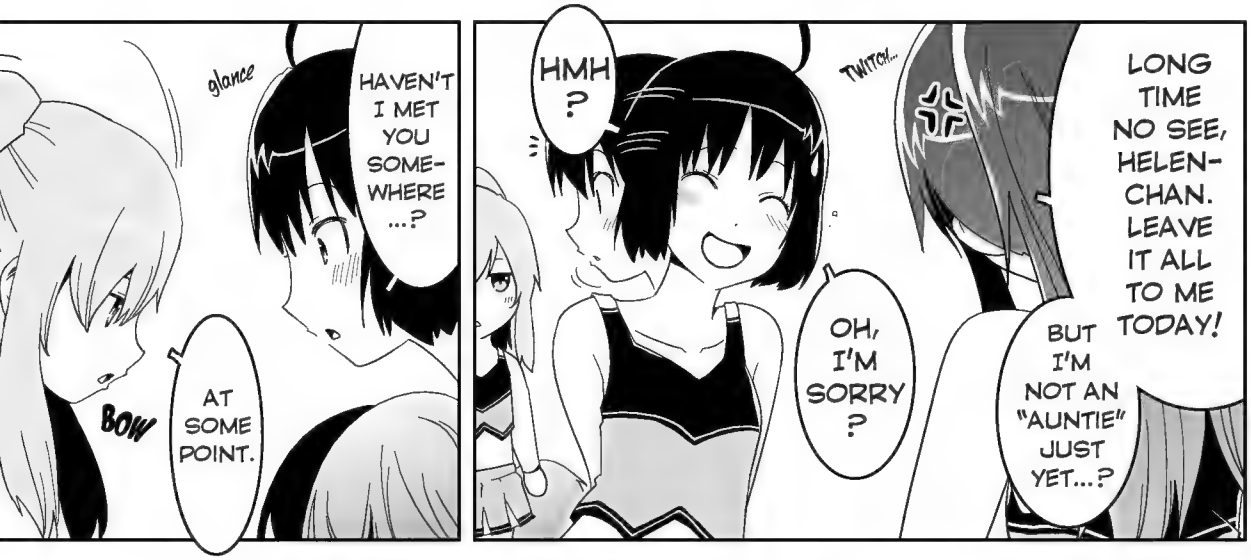
POCK POCK POCK

EHEHE, UNTIL COLLEGE, I WAS ACTUALLY ON THE CHEER-LEADING SQUAD.

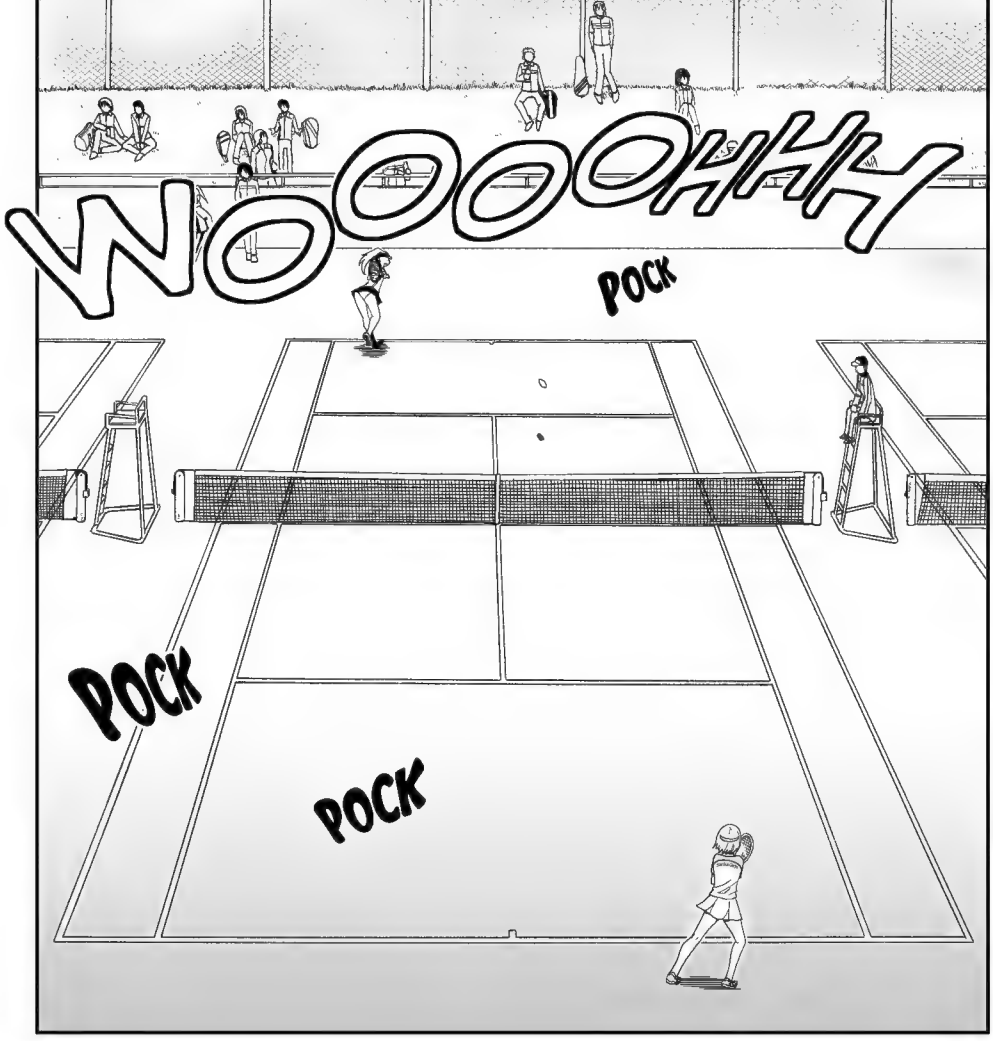
UH? WAIT A MOMENT, WHAT... IS THIS ?!

ANYWAY, IT'S JUST AS I SUSPECTED. THAT OUTFIT SUITS YOU, AND IT'S SO CUUUTE!
EEEK...
hurray.
hurray.
I MAY NOT HAVE SEEN TALENT LIKE THIS SINCE REA-SAMA ...!!
OHHH, EXERCISING AFTER DRINKING MAKES THE ALCOHOL GO ALL THROUGH YOUR BODY AND IT FEELS AWESOME!!
FWAH, I'M SO EMBARRASSED ...
GAH!
Sanka Girls
MERO-CHAN ?!
That outfit...
sweat
sweat
YOU'RE CUTE!
WHAT SCHOOL DO YOU GO TO?
HUHH ?!
AH, NO... I... I'M...
OH...
So this is the tournament Wanko-dono was at.


He-Henh
I WANTED TO INCREASE THE QUALITY OF OUR SUPPORT SO I PUT IN A REQUEST TO MY AUNTIE!
HEHEHE, WHAT DO YOU THINK, RANKO-SENPAI?!
HELEN-CHAN!
So this was your doing after all...
HEY HEY
WELL, THERE WERE A NUMBER OF TWISTS AND TURNS AND...
Sanka Girls


glance
HAVEN'T I MET YOU SOME-WHERE...?
BOW
AT SOME POINT.
HMH?
TWITCH...
LONG TIME NO SEE, HELEN-CHAN. LEAVE IT ALL TO ME TODAY!
OH, I'M SORRY?
BUT I'M NOT AN "AUNTIE" JUST YET...?

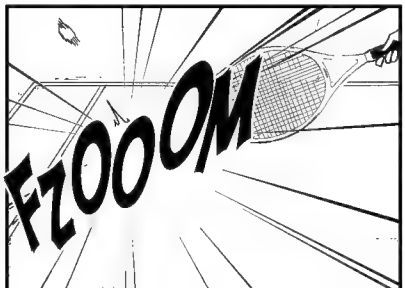
WE'LL SEND OUR ENERGY TO YOU UPPER-CLASSMEN TEAM REGU-LARS, SO PLEASE DON'T WORRY!!
RAHH
RAHH
I MEAN, IT'S FINE THAT YOU'RE ROOTING FOR ME, BUT CHEERING AT A TENNIS MATCH IS...
Please keep it moderately quiet.
Sanka Girls


WOOOOHH
POCK
POCK
POCK

POCK

FIFTEEN — LOVE.
BYA-AHH, SA-N-JO!
RA-N-KO!!
Sanka Girls

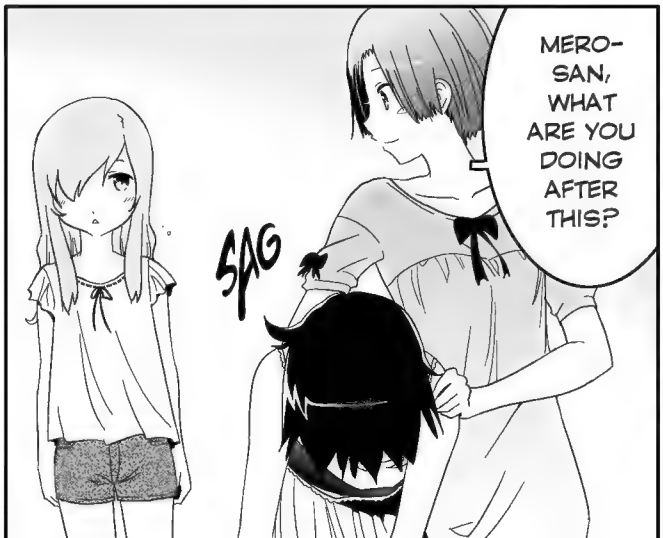
POCK
Sanka Girls

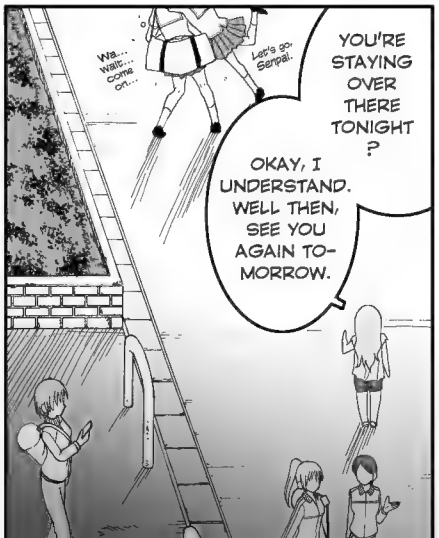

FZOOOM

AUNTIE, THANK YOU SO MUCH, REALLY!! I'M COUNTING ON YOU AGAIN FOR THE NEXT BIG MATCH!!
walk
walk
I'M TIRED FROM THE DISTRAC-TION...
NEXT TIME YOU CALL ME "AUNTIE" I'LL SMACK YOU...
SLUMP
SLUMP

LET'S CELEBRATE AT MY HOUSE UNTIL TOMORROW MORNING!!
GRAB
UM SO... HAVE YOU HEARD ANY-THING ...
...FROM CHIHI-RO AND EVERYONE SINCE THEY LEFT...?

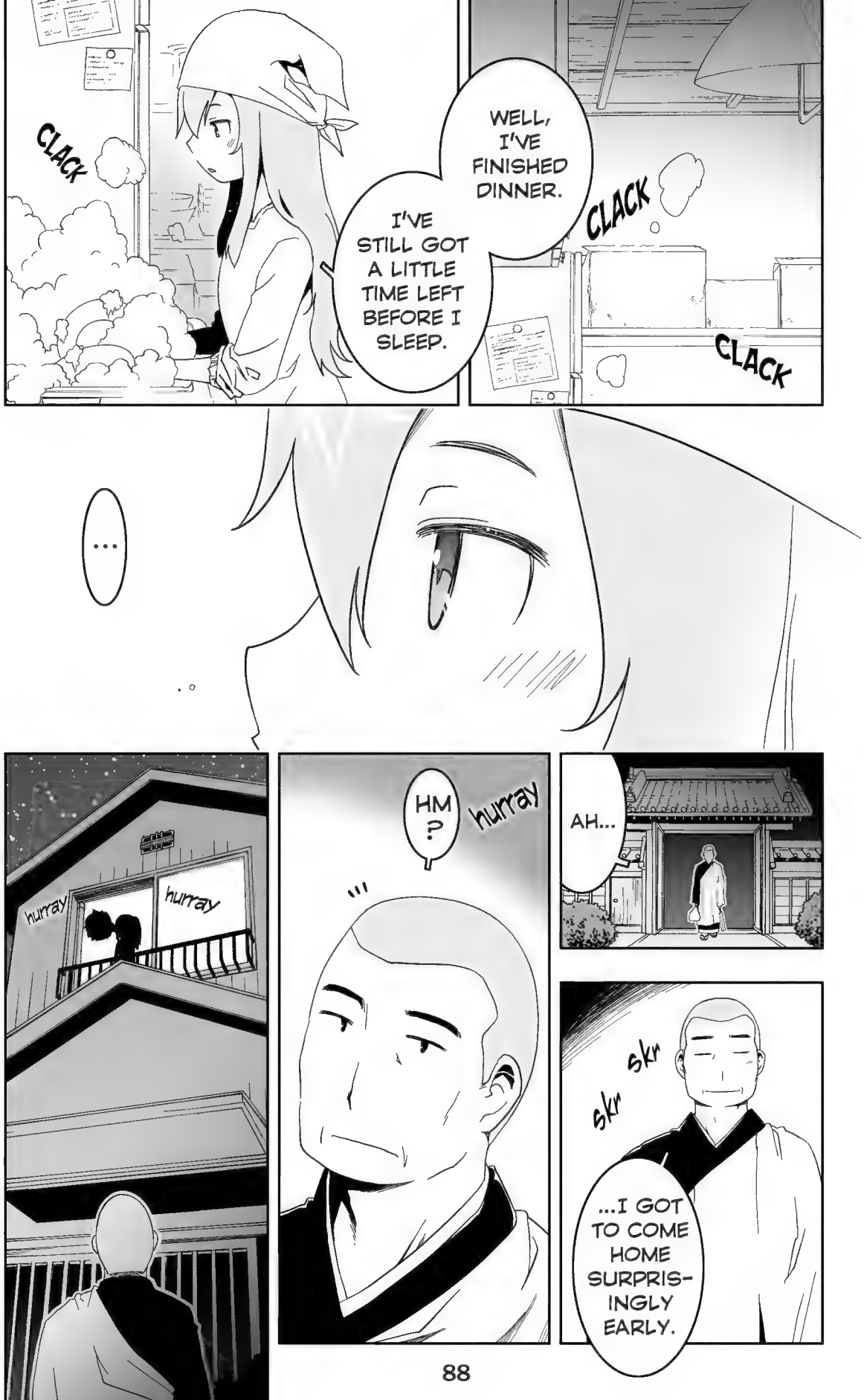
I KNOW THIS WAS ALL RATHER SUDDEN, BUT THANK YOU, TOO.
I'LL LET YOU WEAR MANY DIFFERENT COSTUMES NEXT TIME.
♥
OH NO... I'M GRATEFUL THAT YOU HAD ME EXPERIENCE SOMETHING THAT I WOULD HAVE OTHER-WISE NEVER CONSIDERED.
tap tap
AH ...
MERO-CHAN.


MERO-SAN, WHAT ARE YOU DOING AFTER THIS?
SAG


YOU'RE STAYING OVER THERE TONIGHT ?
OKAY, I UNDERSTAND. WELL THEN, SEE YOU AGAIN TO-MORROW.
Wa... Wait... come on...
Let's go, Senpai.

I'VE BEEN OUT OF THE HOUSE FOR QUITE A WHILE TODAY.
NO ...
...
WON'T YOU HAVE A LIGHT DINNER WITH US?
I SEE ...
I DON'T KNOW WHEN BIG BROTHER AND THE OTHERS WILL RETURN, AFTER ALL...
AH, NO, THAT'S ...
I'LL GIVE THIS TO YOU.
RUSTLE
OH, WAIT, WAIT!
WELL THEN, LET'S GO TO THE PUBLIC BATH AGAIN TOGETHER SOME TIME!
RUSTLE
SHUFFL

...
...I'LL REACH OUT TO YOU AGAIN! WELL THEN, I'VE GOT WORK AFTER THIS...
IT'S FINE, IT'S FINE! IN RETURN, THE NEXT TIME THAT I GET A REQUEST FOR SUPPORT ...
ITA-DAKI-MASU.
SIP
CLACK
CLACK


CLACK
I'VE STILL GOT A LITTLE TIME LEFT BEFORE I SLEEP.
WELL, I'VE FINISHED DINNER.
CLACK
CLACK
...
hurray
hurray
HM?
hurray
AH...
skr
skr
...I GOT TO COME HOME SURPRISINGLY EARLY.

HURRAY...

HURRAY...

BIG BRO...

I'll just leave her alone...

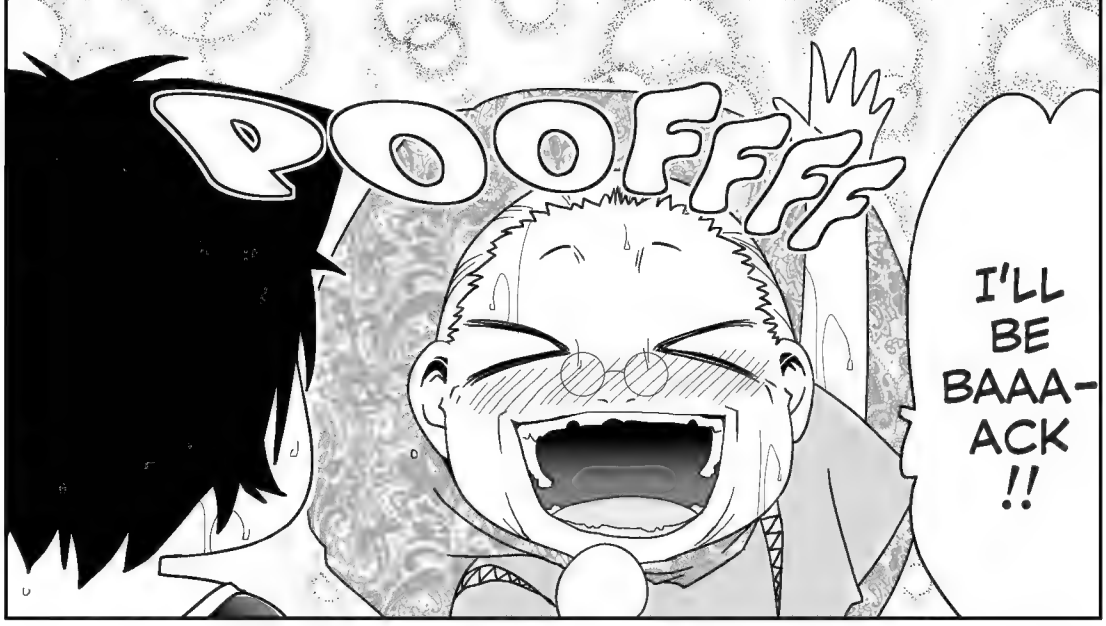
I HAD NO IDEA SHE WAS INTERESTED IN THAT SORT OF THING...

Mitsuru Hattori presents
SANKAREA

GRANDPA!!
WHY ...
...ARE YOU ON THE IS-LAND ...?!
GR ...
SANKAREA

38 I'LL PUT AN END... TO THIS...
✦ ✦ ✦ SWAMP ZOMBIES!! ✦ ✦ ✦

SSSSHHH
YOU... YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY HAVE COME AFTER US ALL THE WAY HERE BECAUSE YOU WERE WORRIED, COULD YOU...?!
BUT YOUR TIMING IS PERFECT ...!!
THINGS ARE REALLY GETTING BAD NOW!
YOU KNOW THE HEAD OF THE FACILITY, THAT SALVA GUY, DON'T YOU, GRANDPA?!
HE... SET US UP...
REA AND BUB ARE IN TROUBLE. I WAS ALMOST KILLED, TOO!!
SO, GRANDPA, THAT'S WHY YOU'VE COME...
TAP
GRANDPA?
...


POOFFF
I'LL BE BAAA-ACK !!

ON HIS WAY TO THE ISLAND...
...GRANDPA WENT INTO SENILE MODE AGAIN...?!
ahh well...

... HRMM ?
WHERE AM I...?
HAVE I ARRIVED ALREADY ?
BUT WHY DID I COME HERE?
DON'T TELL ME...
whirl
whirl

TWITCH

SHAKE
SHAKE
HEY, THERE'S NO TIME FOR THAT NOW !!
PULL YOUR-SELF TO-GETH-ER!!

THUNK
THUSH
LOOK OUT !!
WAH !
BAM
GRRH…
GRAAK!!
WOAHH…
SLICE
NHA

SK
SKR...
...!!
SKR
SKR
CHIHIRO, ARE YOU HURT?
OH... NO.
!!
CLICK
AH...
NVA...
twitch
twitch

I'M SORRY.
THESE PEOPLE HAVE BEEN ABAN-DONED IN A PLACE LIKE THIS...
...THEY'VE WANDERED, SCREAMED, EATEN EACH OTHER, AND LOST ALL DIGNITY AS HUMANS...
THEY ARE DESTINED TO ROT AWAY, AND IF YOU TRACE THE ROOTS OF THEIR ULTIMATE FATE, YOU WOULD FIND ME PARTIALLY AT FAULT FOR HAVING CREATED THE REANIMATION ELIXIR.
SAY
HHHHHHH

...
STAND...
NOW THEN, WHY WERE YOU WANDERING AROUND IN THE BRUSH ALONE?
WHERE ARE THE OTHERS?
WELL... ACTUALLY ...
YHOOOREE
AOHH!!
MH.
IT'S DANGEROUS FOR US TO REMAIN HERE.
TELL ME ABOUT IT WHILE WE WE'RE ON THE MOVE.

OKAY, CHIHIRO, COME WITH ME!
AH, THAT SIDE ...
SKR
SKRR
...DIDN'T HAVE AN ENTRANCE TO THE RESEARCH FACILITY.
SKR
YOU FOOL! THERE'S NO WAY THEY'D LET THE REANIMATED GO NEAR THE RESEARCH CENTER IN THEIR FINAL STAGE.
THIS IS A DIFFERENT ISLAND, SEPARATED FROM ZOMA BY TWO MILES!
SKR

SKR
SKR
SKR
IN THE SWAMP IN THE MIDDLE OF THE ISLAND THERE'S AN EMERGENCY PASSAGE THAT CONNECTS DIRECTLY TO ZOMA! WE'LL FORCE OUR WAY IN THROUGH THERE!!
HUH? IS THAT RIGHT?! NO WONDER...
FWOOM
BURN
BURN
CRACK
MH
UNH.
W... WHAT'S THAT SMELL ...?!
SKR
SKR
SKR
BLEH ...
...?!
WE'VE ARRIVED. IT'S HERE.

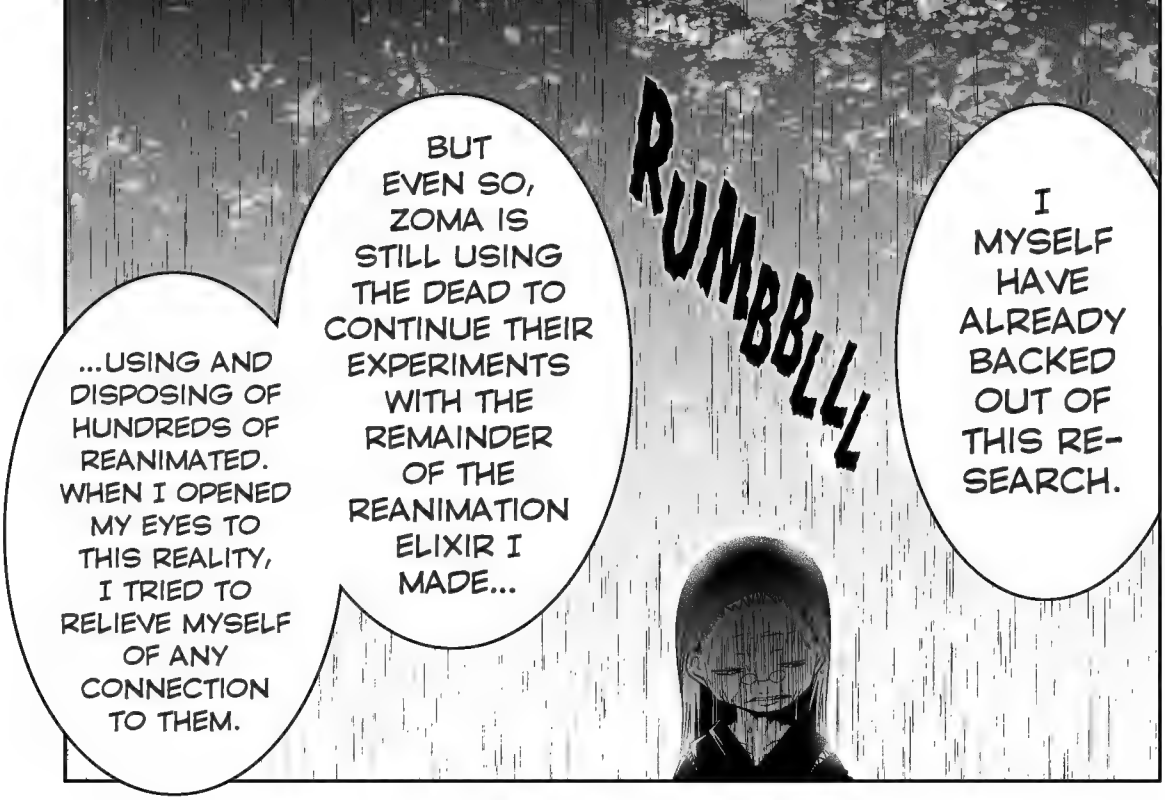
TH...
THIS IS THE SWAMP ...?!
I MEAN, THIS IS... IT CAN'T BE...
IT'S EXACTLY WHAT YOU THINK IT IS.
THESE ARE THE REMAINS OF THE REANIMATED THEMSELVES... WHEN A SQUALL HITS, ROTTED FLESH FROM ALL OVER THE ISLAND GATHERS IN THIS BASIN...
...AND FORMS A SWAMP FROM THE POOL OF FLESH.
BA-BUMP
POOL ...
... OF FLESH ...
THE ULTI-MATE FATE ...
... OF ZOM-BIES ...
BA-

BA-BUMP
BA-BUMP
BA-BUMP
BLEGHH!!
GWEH
MHH, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, CHIHIRO?
...
SO...
...WHAT THE HELL IS IT?
THIS THING... THAT I SAW INSIDE MY HEAD... JUST A LITTLE WHILE AGO...
"THIS" ...
BA-BUMP
...?!
W... H...
BA-BUMP
YOU CAN SEE THE MANHOLE, RIGHT?
THAT'S THE EMER-GENCY PAS-SAGE-WAY.
GAPLOSH

PLOOP
...GR...!!
SPLOOSH

PLOSH
U... NH.
GRAND-PA!!
NO NEED TO WOR-RY.
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING !! THAT WOUND ...
slide...
!!
IT'S A SERIOUS INJURY, ISN'T IT...?! WE HAVE TO STOP THE BLEEDING ...
... LOOK CARE-FULLY.
HUH ...
?!
WHY ...?!
IT'S NOT... BLEEDING ...?!
... CHI-HIRO.

SSSS


I MYSELF HAVE ALREADY BACKED OUT OF THIS RE-SEARCH.
RUMBBLL
BUT EVEN SO, ZOMA IS STILL USING THE DEAD TO CONTINUE THEIR EXPERIMENTS WITH THE REMAINDER OF THE REANIMATION ELIXIR I MADE...
...USING AND DISPOSING OF HUNDREDS OF REANIMATED. WHEN I OPENED MY EYES TO THIS REALITY, I TRIED TO RELIEVE MYSELF OF ANY CONNECTION TO THEM.

CHIHIRO. YOU IGNORED MY WARNINGS AND CAME HERE...
...BUT BECAUSE OF THAT I ALSO REACHED A DECISION.

WHILE I CAN STILL JUST BARELY MAKE USE OF THIS HEAD OF MINE...
... WITH MY OWN HANDS, I'M GOING TO...

...PUT AN END TO ZOMA...
...AND TO SALVA'S FOLLY.

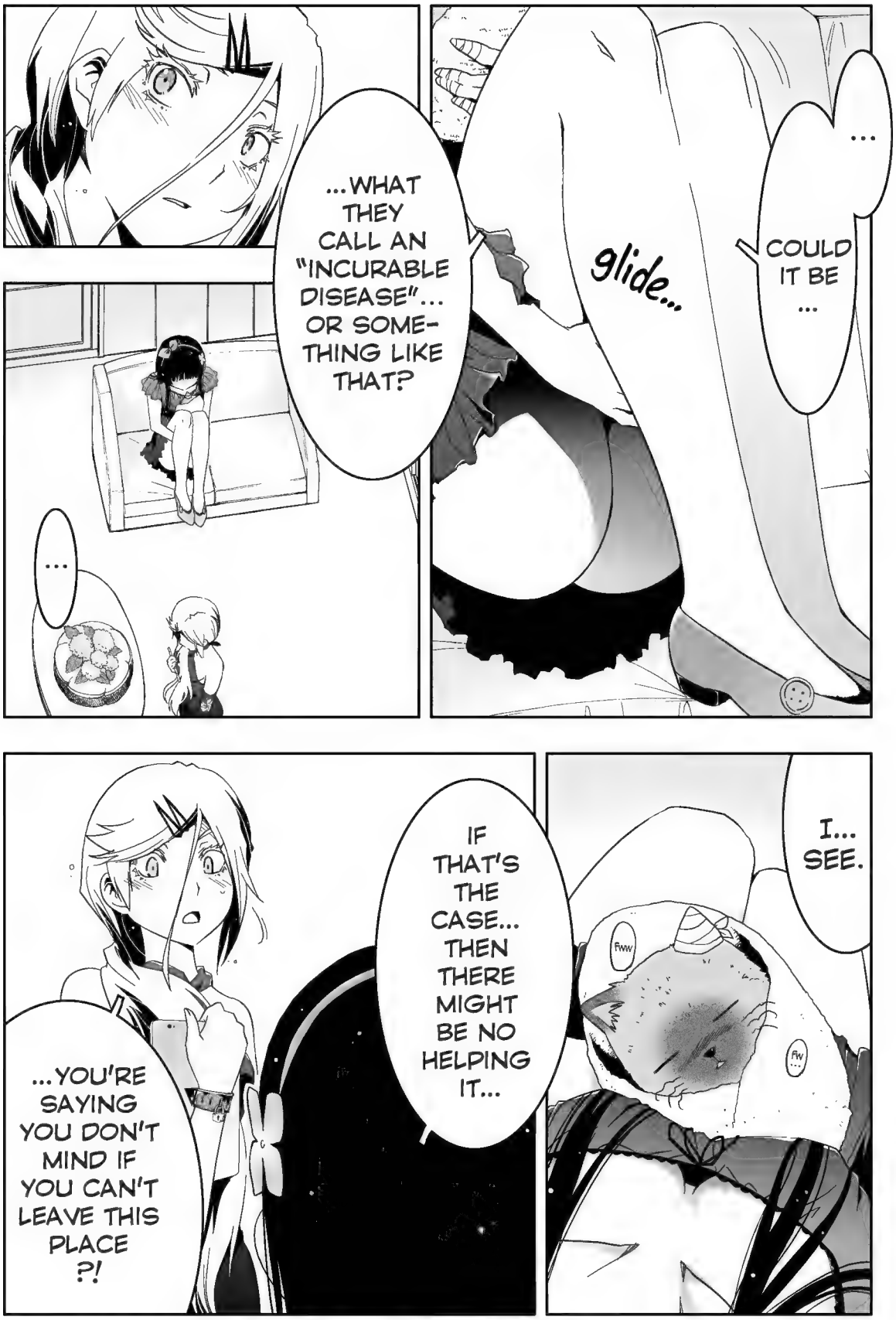
39

GLAMOR...OUS...

✦ ✦ ✦ THE GHOULS ✦ ✦ ✦

SSSHHHHH
UM ...
DARIN-SAN... WAS IT?
POOF...
EVEN IF THIS IS A HOS-PITAL ...
...WON'T I BECOME NUTRITIONALLY IMBALANCED IF I KEEP EATING JUST THESE LEAVES?
MUNCH
MUNCH
THEY'RE PERFECTLY MATCHED TO YOUR PHYSICAL MAKE-UP, SO IT'S FINE.
I DON'T MEAN TO ASK FOR TOO MUCH ...
...BUT RIGHT ABOUT NOW I REALLY FEEL LIKE... I WANT TO EAT SOME MEAT OR SOME-THING...
...
BY THE WAY ...

...ABOUT HOW LONG DO WE HAVE LEFT...
...UNTIL WE'RE ABLE TO LEAVE THE HOS-PITAL?
...AND I HAVE THE FAINTEST RECOLLEC-TION THAT IT JUST WOULDN'T GET BETTER...
IF I'M NOT MISTAKEN... BUB-CHAN ALSO HAS THE SAME ILLNESS...
...THAT'S RIGHT.
WE STILL HAVE TO WAIT AND SEE BEFORE WE CAN DO ANYTHING ABOUT RELEASING YOU...
...

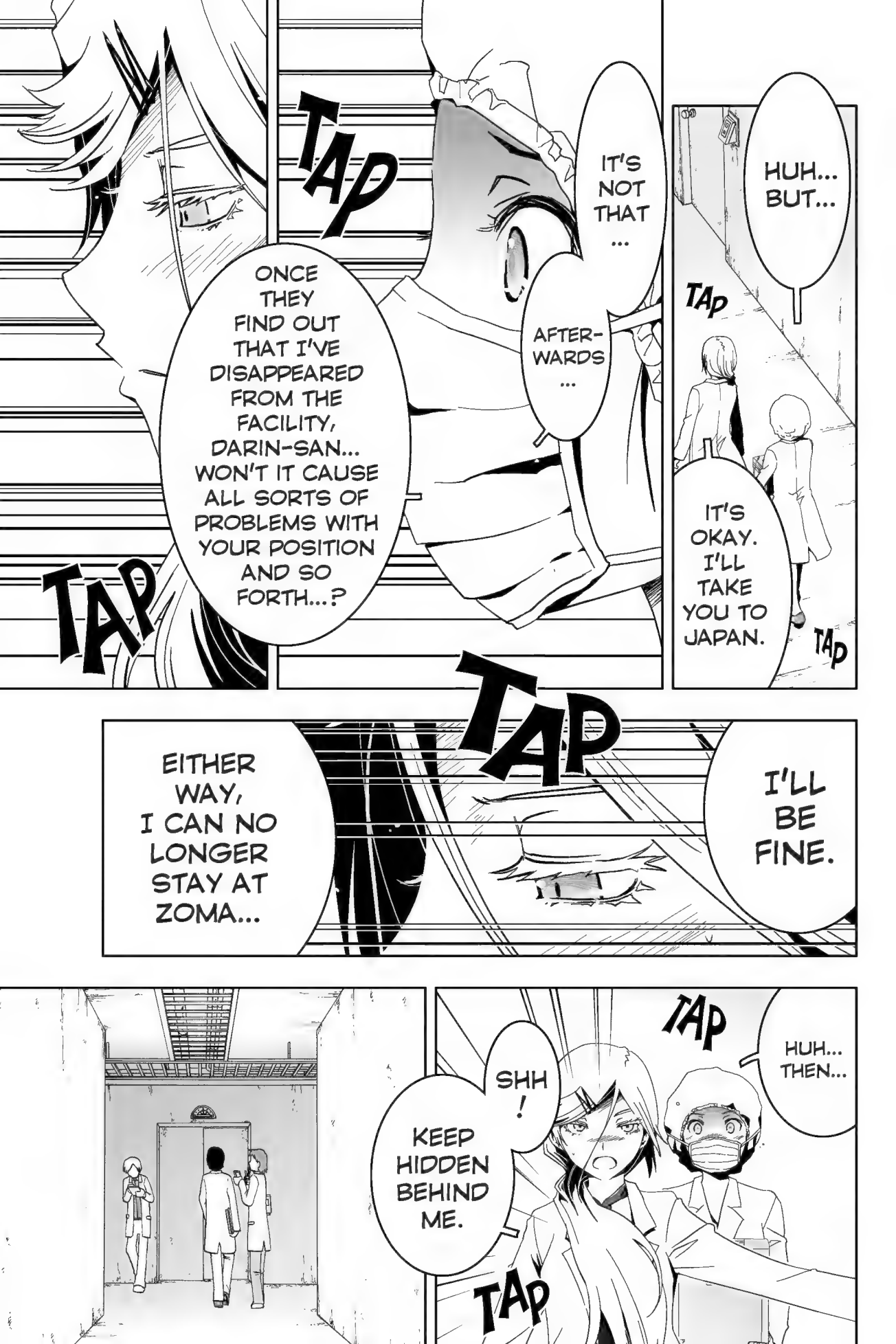

...WHAT THEY CALL AN "INCURABLE DISEASE"... OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
...
glide...
COULD IT BE ...
...
I... SEE.
fww
fw...
IF THAT'S THE CASE... THEN THERE MIGHT BE NO HELPING IT...
...YOU'RE SAYING YOU DON'T MIND IF YOU CAN'T LEAVE THIS PLACE ?!

...IF...
...THAT IS MY FATE...
... THEN I ACCEPT IT.
...
REA.
H...HEY.
...BUT...
CRUEL...
IT'S TRUE THAT IT MIGHT BE CRUEL...
EVEN SO, I...
NO!
GET AWAY FROM HIM! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
NO...

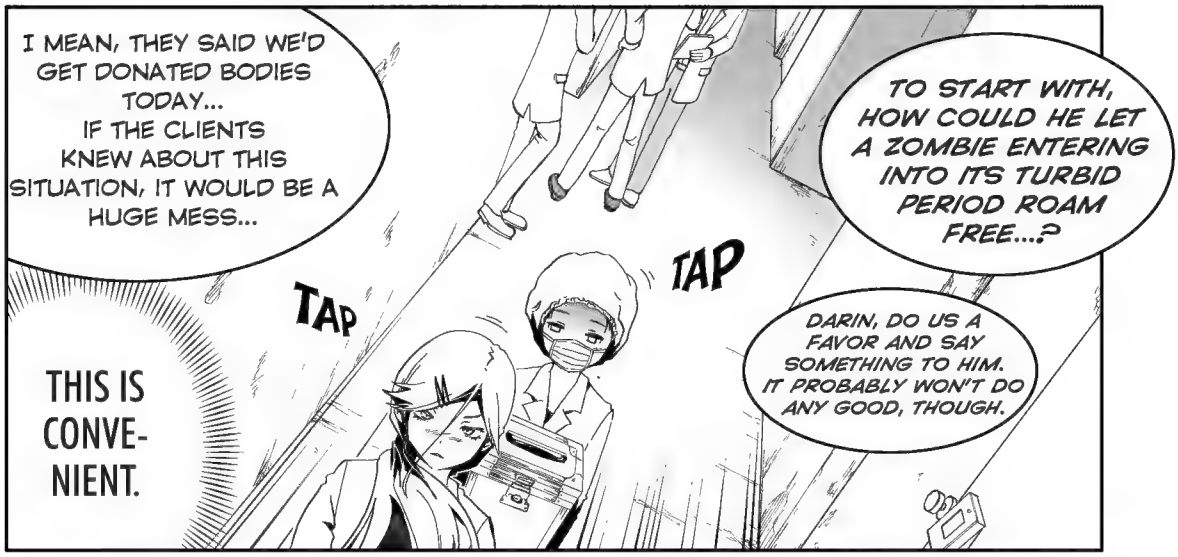
UNTIL
THE END...
YOUR
FATE
...
DARIN ♥ REA
Friends Forever
...
ZoMA
YOU
...
...
DOESN'T
END
HERE...!

GROOARR
WOOSH

RRRUMBLL
AT 10:40 TODAY, A TRANSPORT PLANE IS COMING TO BRING IN MATERIALS AND DONATED BODIES FROM THE MAINLAND.
OOOMM
TAP
TAP
TAP
TAP
RUMMBBLLLL
WE'LL BLEND IN WITH THE RESEARCH-ERS, GET ON THE PLANE AND GET AWAY FROM ZOMA.
IF WE MISS THE OPPORTUNITY, THE NEXT TRANSPORT PLANE WON'T COME FOR ANOTHER TWO WEEKS... IN SHORT, YOU'VE ONLY GOT ONE CHANCE!


TAP
ONCE THEY FIND OUT THAT I'VE DISAPPEARED FROM THE FACILITY, DARIN-SAN... WON'T IT CAUSE ALL SORTS OF PROBLEMS WITH YOUR POSITION AND SO FORTH...?
IT'S NOT THAT ...
AFTER-WARDS ...
HUH... BUT...
TAP
IT'S OKAY. I'LL TAKE YOU TO JAPAN.
TAP
TAP
EITHER WAY, I CAN NO LONGER STAY AT ZOMA...
I'LL BE FINE.
TAP
HUH... THEN...
SHH!
KEEP HIDDEN BEHIND ME.
TAP

ROSALIE HAS BEEN GONE SINCE THIS MORNING...
...SO APPARENTLY THE CHIEF HAS ARBITRARILY SHUT DOWN SEVERAL OF THE ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS SO SHE CAN'T RUN AWAY...
BECAUSE OF THAT, EVEN WE CAN'T GET ABOVE GROUND...
WHAT'S WRONG?
THE ELEVATOR'S NOT MOVING.


I MEAN, THEY SAID WE'D GET DONATED BODIES TODAY... IF THE CLIENTS KNEW ABOUT THIS SITUATION, IT WOULD BE A HUGE MESS...
TO START WITH, HOW COULD HE LET A ZOMBIE ENTERING INTO ITS TURBID PERIOD ROAM FREE...?
TAP
TAP
DARIN, DO US A FAVOR AND SAY SOMETHING TO HIM. IT PROBABLY WON'T DO ANY GOOD, THOUGH.
THIS IS CONVE-NIENT.

HMH, ZOMA IS NEAR.
GRAND-PA.
I'M STARTING TO HEAR WHAT SOUNDS LIKE A WATER-FALL...
DWOOOOSHH

squee squee squee...
WE'LL DO IT WHILE THE CHIEF'S ATTENTION IS ELSE-WHERE...!
squee squee...

BUT... WHY ARE WE GOING OUT OF OUR WAY TO BREAK IN FROM A PLACE LIKE THIS WHEN YOU USED TO WORK HERE AT ZOMA, GRANDPA?
IF I WERE JUST GOING TO SEE MY OLD FRIENDS AGAIN, I WOULDN'T BE DOING THIS.
WELL, I CAN SEE IT UP AHEAD.
SSSHHHHH
DO YOU REALLY THINK THAT IF I MET WITH THAT SALVA, HE'D JUST WILLINGLY SHOW ME TO THE STORAGE ROOM?
...I SEE.
MY NUMBER-ONE GOAL IS TO GET INSIDE THE ROOM WHERE THE REANIMATION ELIXIR IS BEING STORED...
...AND DISPOSE OF ALL THE RE-MAINING MEDICINE.
TAP
TAP
FOR THE TIME BEING, IF WE GO ABOVE GROUND USING ONE OF THE STAIRCASES UP AHEAD, NO ONE WILL BE SUSPICIOUS OF US.
DWOOOSHHH
THIS IS...
ONE OF THE EMER-GENCY PAS-SAGE-WAYS.
TAP
TAP
GA-CLANG

...?!
HUH... A GIRL ...?
TWITCH

SMACKK
NMAHH...
EEEEKK!!
WH... WHAT? THAT GIRL... IS EATING A LIVE RA... RAT...
CLOP
CLOP
CALM DOWN! DON'T YELL.
Slide..
WE'LL IGNORE HER AND CROSS TO THE OTHER BANK.
CLOP
EEEEKK

GRAB
AHH !!
sniff...
GAPE
CLANNGGG
WHAT ARE YOU DOING ...?! NOO!!
NNAAHH...
BUB-CHAN !!

CHOMP
WHY, YOU!!
CLONG
...FOR YOU TO BLIND-LY TRY AND EAT ANYTHING YOU CAN GET YOUR HANDS ON...
WHEN YOU WERE ALIVE, YOU MUST HAVE BEEN RAISED WITHIN A FAMILY AND ENVIRONMENT THAT WAS OVERFLOWING WITH LOVE...
ARE YOU TRYING TO EAT ME, TOO...?! HEHE...
... BUT YOU KNOW WHAT?

PUSH
I...
PUSH
...DON'T WANT...
GRIN
NMAH...
...TO BE LIKED...
...BY SOME-THING LIKE YOU!!

ROSALIE!!
...SO THAT'S WHERE YOU WERE.
TAP
TAP
NH...
NMAH...
THANK GOODNESS...!
EAHH...?
IF YOU FELL, YOU'D BE SWALLOWED UP BY THE WHIRLPOOL IN THE DRAIN, YOU KNOW?
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU WOULD COME TO SUCH A DANGEROUS PLACE WITHOUT PERMISSION...
THUD

glide...
SO YOU'VE FINALLY... STARTED SHOWING THE SYMPTOMS OF THE TURBID PERIOD DURING THE DAY TOO...
BUT THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY.
LAST NIGHT... I FINALLY SUCCEEDED IN THE REFINEMENT OF A VACCINE THAT WOULD SAVE YOU FROM THE TURBID PERIOD...!!
SNAP
NHH...?
BUT IN ORDER TO GET CLINICAL DATA, THIS TINY DOSE JUST ISN'T ENOUGH...
NNHH...
IN THE END...
!!
CLACK
...TO MAKE THE VACCINE...
...I'LL NEED MORE...
..."MATERIAL"...

TWITCH
HEY, YOU...
LET'S HAVE A GOOD LOOK AT YOUR FACE.
RUSTLE
HMMM...
...
WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS? DARIN...
COULD IT BE...?
YOU WEREN'T THINKING OF LETTING SOMETHING LIKE "THAT" GO... NOW WERE YOU?!

WELL THEN... HAND OVER...
...THAT SAMPLE...
HUH... BY SAMPLE HE MEANS ...?!
HUH ...?
L...LET'S GO BACK TO THE ROOM... OTHERWISE...
DON'T WORRY.
AFTER ALL, THE BODY YOU HAVE WILL BE JUST FINE IF YOU GET SHOT UP A LITTLE.
HUH ?!
glide...

HUH... BUT WHAT ABOUT YOU, DA-RIN-SAN, AND BUB-CHAN...?!
JUST KEEP CLIMBING THE STAIRS AT THE END OF THE PATH.
OKAY? WHEN I GIVE THE SIGNAL, TURN AROUND AND RUN.
I DON'T WANT TO !!
IT'S FINE, JUST GO ...!
I CAN'T JUST LEAVE EVERYONE BEHIND AND RUN AWAY ON MY OWN!!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, DARIN?
IF YOU DON'T LISTEN TO ME, THEN YOU'LL...
YES, GO AHEAD.
... REA-LLY ...
... YOU'RE SOME-THING ELSE ...

BOOOOOOMMMM
IF THAT'S THE CASE...
...WHY NOT JUST SHOOT ME DEAD...?
?!
IF YOU SAY YOU CAN'T LOVE ANYTHING BUT ZOMBIES...
...THEN WHY NOT JUST KILL ME... AND MAKE ME INTO THE "DAUGHTER" OF YOUR PREFERENCE?
DA... DARIN-SAN, WHAT ARE YOU SAYING ...?!
HEHE...
I WOULDN'T EVEN MIND IF YOU CALL ME "ROSALIE," IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WISH...
...FATHER.

WAAHA HAHA.
AHAHA, IS THAT SO?!
HAHA...
HAHAHA...!
PHEW...
I WISH I COULD HAVE...
DOOOMMM
...HEARD THOSE WORDS SOONER.
IS THAT HOW IT IS?!
I HAD NO IDEA...
...THAT'S WHAT YOU YEARNED FOR...

THEY WAY YOU ARE NOW...
...YOU'RE JUST TOO GLAMOROUS.
NOOOOOO!!
CA-THUNK
POW

I WANT YOU TO DIE...
TAP
...AFTER DRINKING THE REANIMATION ELIXIR...
I'LL KILL YOU, JUST LIKE YOU WISH.
TAP
BUT AT THE VERY END I WANT YOUR COOPERATION IN MY EXPERIMENT.
TAP
DARIN-SAN, HANG IN THERE!
IF YOU DO THAT, I'LL GIVE YOU PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT AS A PRECIOUS "SAMPLE"...
DOOOOOOOMMMM
...EVEN IF I CAN'T MAKE YOU MY "DAUGHTER."

POOOW
?!
KKARC
HOW... COULD YOU DO SUCH A THING ...?!
GWA... AHH.

Mooooom
HOW COULD YOU DO SUCH A TERRIBLE THING TO YOUR DAUGHTER... EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE HER FATHER ...?!
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT...!!
ARE YOU EVEN ...
...A WARM-BLOOD-ED HUMAN BEING ?!
drop...
AUUH...
YOU, TOO! GIVE BACK BUB-CHAN !!
PULL
TUG TUG
LET GO ...

DON'T TOUCH HER!!
WOOOSH
EEEKK!!
HOW DARE YOU LECTURE ME...
...AS A BLOODLESS ZOMBIE!!

AS A SAMPLE...
...WAIT FOR ME WHILE BEING SWALLOWED UP BY THE DRAIN'S WHIRLPOOL.
AFTERWARDS...
...I'LL COME BACK TO RETRIEVE ONLY YOUR BRAIN.

SANKAREA

RE...
SAKAKA

40

TRUST... ME...

THE RAGE

SKR...
GRAO

FWISHH
NHU-UN!
CR-CREE...
THANKS, GRAND-PA!!
YOU OKAY, REA ...?
turn
...OO-PS.

DOOOMM
...SAL-VA!
PRO-FES-SOR ...?! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE ?!
WH...

I WAS SURROUNDED BY ZOMBIES IN THE JUNGLE BUT WAS SAVED BECAUSE YOU PUT A TINY BIT OF THE POISON IN ME.
THANKS.
I HAD NO IDEA THAT YOU WERE STILL ALIVE...
SO HE DID FULLY INTEND TO KILL ME, THAT BASTARD ...!

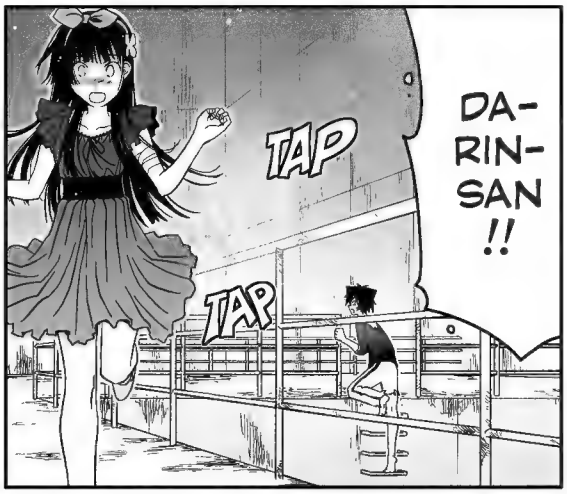
ARE YOU HURT ?!
UM...
TH... UM... THANK YOU VERY MUCH ...!!
BO... BOW
UMM... AS FAR AS WOUNDS GO, I HAVE STITCHES ON MY LEFT ARM AND ON MY STOMACH ...
HU-HH ?!
WHAT ARE YOU GOING ON ABOUT ...?!
BUB... WHAT HAP-PENED TO BUB ?!
...
POO...FF
OH ...
UHM ...
UP?! HE'S UP THERE, ISN'T HE?!
RRRRROOOMMM

CHIHIRO, I'M LEAVING HER TO YOU.
SINCE WE'VE RUN INTO EACH OTHER, THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO TALK TO HIM ABOUT.
NHH!..
NHH!..
CLANG
OH... EX-CUSE ME !!
THE GIRL UP THERE IS BADLY HURT, SO PLEASE HELP HER !!
WHAT?!
DARIN... HANG IN THERE !!
huff..
CLANG
CLANG
huff ...
I'M HEADING TO YOU NOW!
huff ...
PRO-FES-SOR... BOYLE ...
...

HMM, HOW TERRI-BLE...
JUST YOU WAIT, I'LL GIVE YOU FIRST AID.
HURT...
HURT...
RRIP
WHAT IS YOUR REASON FOR COMING HERE...?
SEEING AS YOU PASSED THROUGH THAT DRAINAGE TUNNEL TO ENTER ZOMA...
...IT DOESN'T SEEM ...
...AS THOUGH YOU'RE VISITING TO HELP WITH OUR RESEARCH, DOES IT...?
... YOU.
POUR...
NNH ...
WRIGGLE
WRIGGLE
NHH...
SO YOU HAVE BEEN DOING IT AGAIN... AFTER ALL...
GIVING SUCH HORRIBLE TREATMENT TO DARIN...
HMPH.

DOOOOOOMMMM
PRO-FESSOR BOYLE... I WISH THAT YOU WOULD NOT MISUNDER-STAND THE SITUATION.
THIS IS THE RESULT OF HER VOLUN-TEERING HER-SELF...

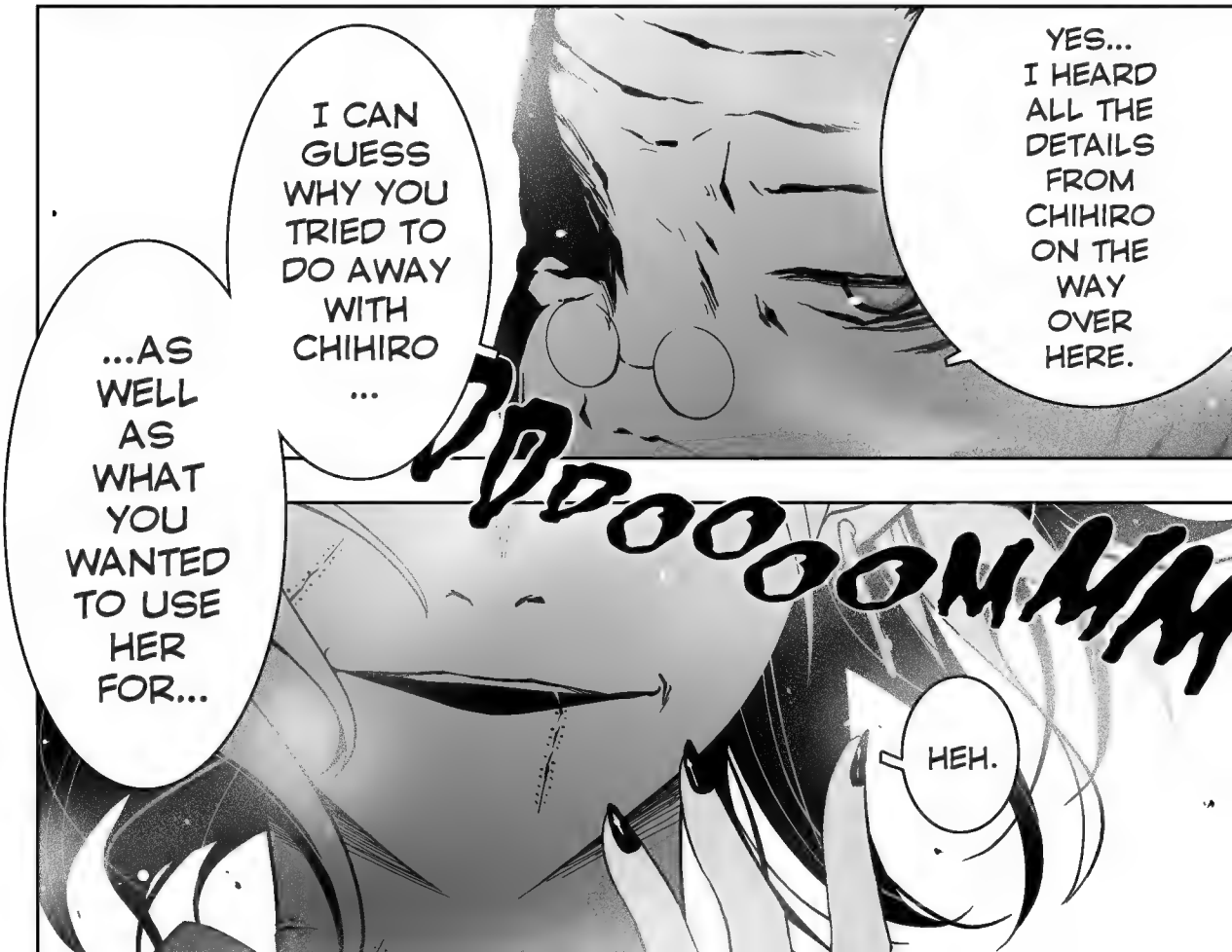
I'M GLAD ...
...THAT YOU'RE... NOT HURT...


TAP
TAP
DA-RIN-SAN !!

huff ...
YOU DON'T NEED TO SAY ANY-THING MORE!
hufff
THOUGH I ALWAYS USE A LITTLE BIT OF TOWA'S POISON, FOR IT TO RUN OUT AT JUST SUCH A TIME AS THIS... IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I'VE FELT PAIN LIKE THIS...
ALL OF THIS... IS SOME-THING I BROUGHT UPON MY-SELF...

I REALLY ... GOT WHAT WAS COM-ING TO ME...
huff ...

...
HUH?
STAND...
SHE'S A NEW BREED THAT POSSESSES A MIRACULOUSLY BALANCED PROPORTION OF LIFE AND DEATH...
THE SOLE ZOMBIE TO OVERCOME THE TURBID PERIOD ...!!
THAT'S RIGHT, HAS HE TOLD YOU?
ABOUT THAT SAMPLE THERE...


YES... I HEARD ALL THE DETAILS FROM CHIHIRO ON THE WAY OVER HERE.
I CAN GUESS WHY YOU TRIED TO DO AWAY WITH CHIHIRO ...
...AS WELL AS WHAT YOU WANTED TO USE HER FOR...
DDOOOOMMM
HEH.

WHAT ARE YOU SAY-ING, PRO-FES-SOR ...?
YOU'RE NO DIFFERENT FROM ME. DID YOU NOT CARRY ON WITH ALL SORTS OF THE SAME DEEDS?
...FOR EXAM-PLE...
DOOO

GRAND-PA...?
...DID YOU DO... TO MOM ...?!
WHAT ...

OH MY... IT SEEMS AS THOUGH YOU HAVEN'T SAID ANYTHING ABOUT IT TO YOUR GRAND-SON...
BUT TO START WITH ...
...WASN'T IT THAT HE'S NOT ACTUALLY YOUR GRANDSON, AND YOUR FAMILY TIES ARE RATHER DISTANT ...?
DOOO

DOES DAD ...
... KNOW ABOUT THAT ...?
IF... IT IS TRUE ...
... WHY ...
... DIDN'T YOU SAY ANY-THING UNTIL NOW ...?

I THOUGHT ABOUT TELLING YOU AND YOUR SISTER...
...AT SOME POINT.
BUT ...
...FOR NOW... PLEASE DON'T ASK ME ANY-THING ...
I'M SOR-RY ...
slide...
JUST FOR NOW... CAN'T ...
CAN'T YOU JUST TRUST ME...?

NEXT TIME WE HAVE THIS DISCUS-SION...
...
GRAND-PA...
THUD
GRAB
TUG
...NO GOING SENILE, GOT IT?!

NO ...
...THEY CAN'T BOARD THE TRANSPORT PLANE WITHOUT THE PERMISSION OF THE RESEARCHERS...
ULTIMATELY, EVEN IF HE COULD TAKE HER OUT ABOVE GROUND ...
AWWW ...
IF IT'S PERMISSION THEY NEED, I'LL GIVE IT. CONTRACTUALLY, I'M STILL A RESEARCHER HERE.
I WON'T INVOLVE THEM IN YOUR CIRCUMSTANCES ANY MORE THAN THIS.

PER-MIS-SION... HM?
SO YOU CAME ALL THE WAY HERE JUST TO HELP THEM ?
...IT SEEMS LIKE THERE'S ANOTHER REASON, THOUGH ...
DOOOOOOOMM
SORRY ABOUT THIS, PROFES-SOR...
...BUT I'M GOING TO HAVE THOSE TWO STAY HERE FOR THE TIME BEING.
... SIGH.
!
glide...
NHHH...

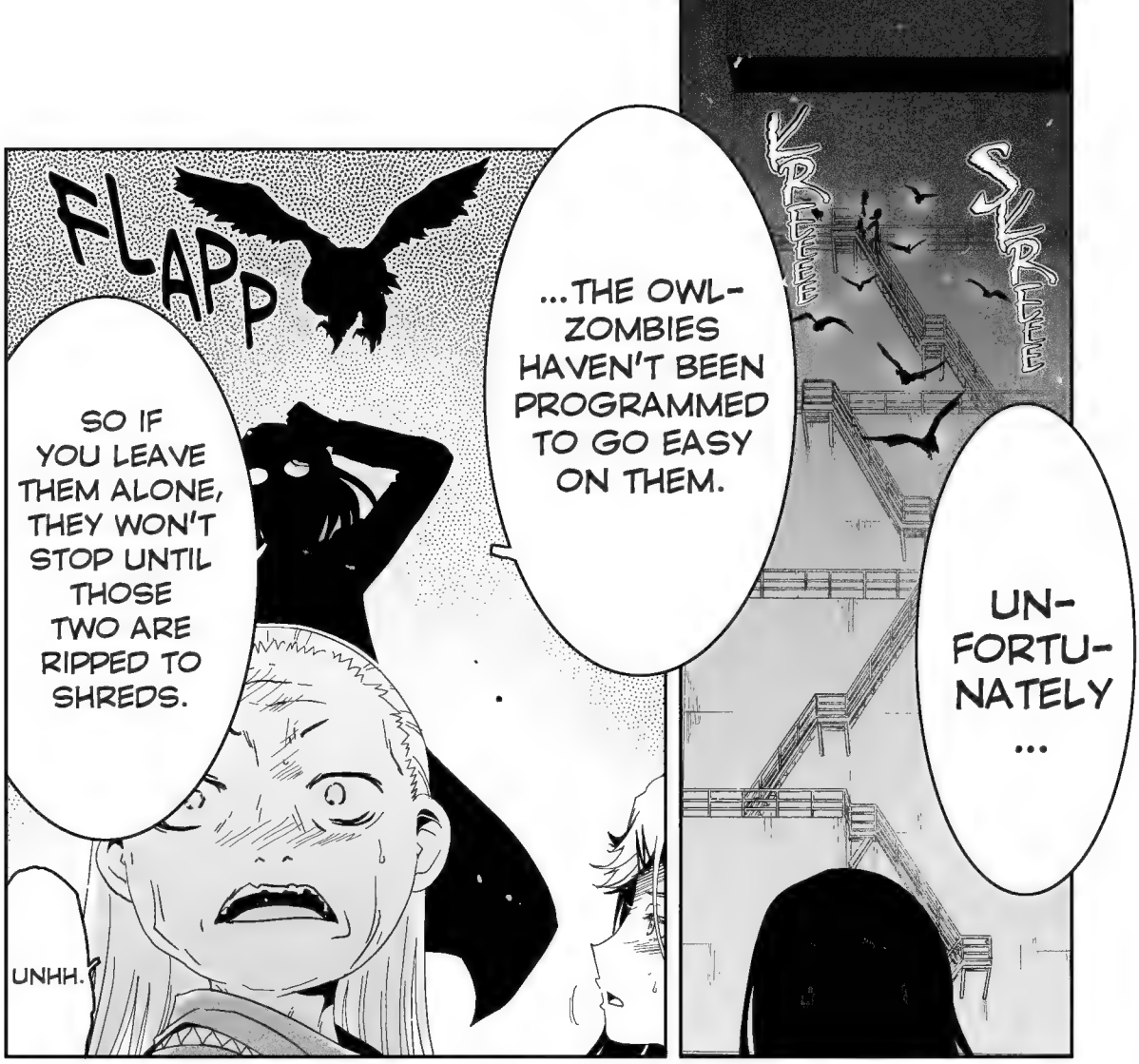
TWEEEEE
SHP
SHP
SHP
HNM ?!
SHP
SHP
SHP
SHP
... AH.
SHP
SHP

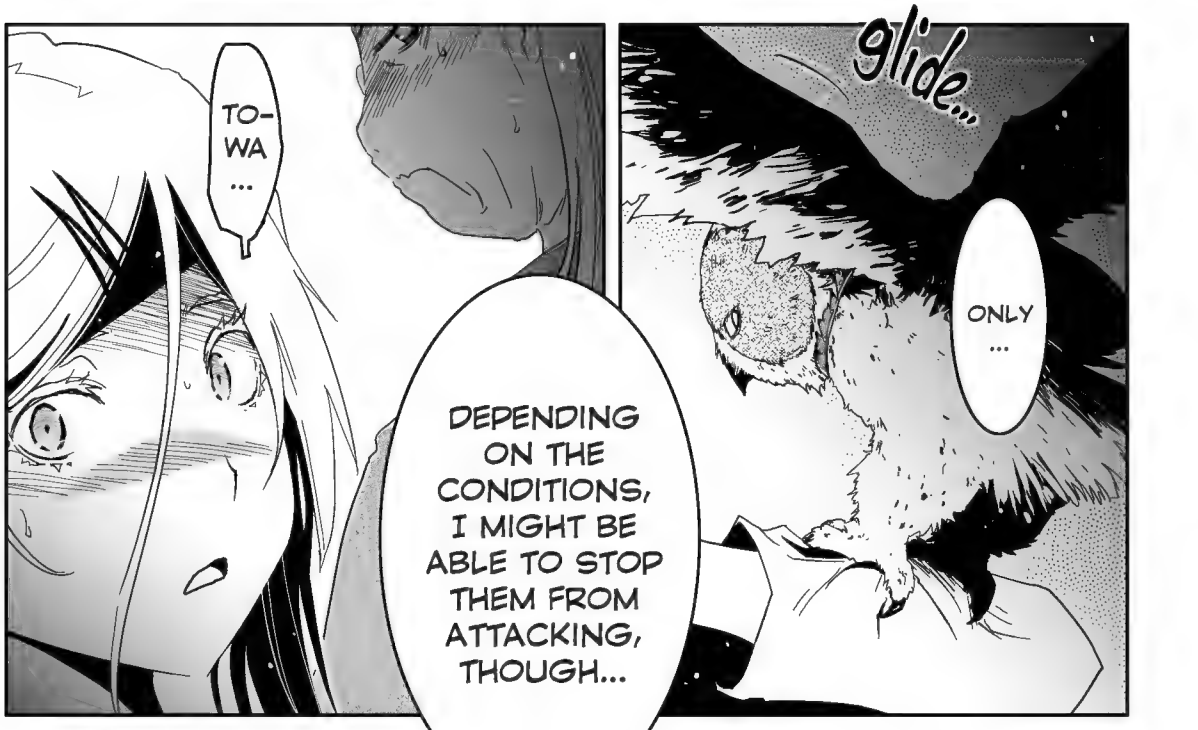
CLANG
WAIT JUST A MOMENT... WHAT'S WITH YOU?! I... CAN'T RUN OFF AND LEAVE DARIN-SAN AND THE OTHERS BEHIND!!
IT'S FINE! I MEAN, FIRST OF ALL WE NEED TO...
CLANG
CLANG
CLANG
WAI ...
NO !!
PULL
GAH!
CLANG
AAH!
OW!
ACK!
CLO
CLONG
I... I'M SORRY, I DIDN'T ...
I DIDN'T THINK I HAD PUT THAT MUCH POWER INTO IT...
OW-WW ...
CLANG
CLANG

IT'S THE PROMISE I MADE TO MY GRAND-PA!
... JUST IN CASE.
AH...ANY-WAY, I'M TELLING YOU NOT TO WORRY BECAUSE WE'RE NOT GOING TO LEAVE BUB AND THEM ALONE AND RUN AWAY !!
W... WELL WHY ARE WE HEADING UPWARDS THEN ?!
WHOOSH
I'LL ALSO TEACH YOU THE ROUTE TO THE MEDICINE STORAGE ROOM JUST IN CASE I COME INTO A SITUATION WHERE I WILL MEET MY END IN THE RESEARCH FACILITY.
IF I HAND YOU THIS BUNDLE, THEN THAT WILL BE THE CUE.
I'LL BE COUNT-ING ON YOU THEN, CHIHIRO ...!!
A PRO-MISE ...
...

I'M GRATEFUL THAT YOU RESCUED ME BUT... I DON'T REALLY WANT TO BE WITH SOMEONE WHO ADDRESSES ME IN SUCH A CASUAL WAY FROM OUR FIRST ENCOUNTER...
HUH ...?
B... BUT EVEN SO, WHY DO I ALSO ...
JUST... WHO ARE YOU ANY-WAY ?!
SHP
SHP
SHP
SHP
SOME-THING ...
...IS COM-ING ...?
HM ?
WHAT'S THAT...? FOR A WHILE NOW, I THOUGHT THAT THERE MIGHT BE SOMETHING OFF ABOUT YOU...!
IT'S AL-MOST AS IF...
TWITCH
UH...

SHP
WHAAAAAH!!
SHP
SHP
SHP


SKREEEE
SKREEEE
UN-
FORTU-
NATELY
...
...THE OWL-
ZOMBIES
HAVEN'T BEEN
PROGRAMMED
TO GO EASY
ON THEM.
FLAPP
SO IF
YOU LEAVE
THEM ALONE,
THEY WON'T
STOP UNTIL
THOSE
TWO ARE
RIPPED TO
SHREDS.
UNHH.


glide...
ONLY
...
TO-
WA
...
DEPENDING
ON THE
CONDITIONS,
I MIGHT BE
ABLE TO STOP
THEM FROM
ATTACKING,
THOUGH...

IN LESS THAN A FEW YEARS, THE STOCK OF THE REANIMATION ELIXIR YOU PREPARED FOR US WILL RUN OUT.
THERE WAS A REASON I HAD DARIN GO CALL OUT TO YOU IN JAPAN, PROFESSOR ...
...AND HAVE YOU CONTINUE TO PREPARE OUR ELIXIR FOR US FROM NOW ON.
NHH...?
AND SEEING AS THAT WILL INTERRUPT OUR RESEARCH, WE'D BE MORE THAN PLEASED TO HAVE YOU BACK HERE, PROFESSOR...
DOOOOOOMM
WELL THEN, HOW ABOUT IT, PROFESSOR BOYLE...?
IT SEEMS AS THOUGH THAT BOY NAMED CHIHIRO PREPARED IT TOO, BUT I REALLY CAN'T IMAGINE THAT HE'D COOPERATE WITH US...

CLANG
CLANG
IF YOU DON'T DECIDE SOON ...
... IT'LL BE TOO LATE ...
...TO SAVE THE BOTH OF THEM...
CLANG
...
glide...
SALVA ...

I TOLD YOU BEFORE, DIDN'T I? EVEN IF YOU USE SUCH CHEAP TRICKS, I WON'T CHANGE MY MIND.
NOT AS LONG AS YOU CONTINUE THAT RIDICULOUS ATTEMPT AT PLAYING HOUSE...
TWITCH
HAVE YOU EVER BEEN LIKED EVEN ONCE BY ANY OF THE "DAUGHTERS" THAT YOU'VE MADE FOR YOURSELF?
NHH...
WRIGGLE
NHH.
BY THE LOOKS OF IT, THAT GIRL SEEMS TO BE IN HER TURBID PERIOD, TOO.
WRIGGLE
NNGH.
WRIGGLE
VOOOOOMM
SHE DOESN'T SHOW ANY SIGNS OF TRYING TO EAT YOU. IN FACT, SHE SEEMS TO BE TRYING TO GET AWAY FROM YOU, DOESN'T SHE?
NHH.
YOU UNDERSTAND, SALVA...? THE REANIMATED IN THEIR TURBID PERIOD DON'T LIE.
NHH.

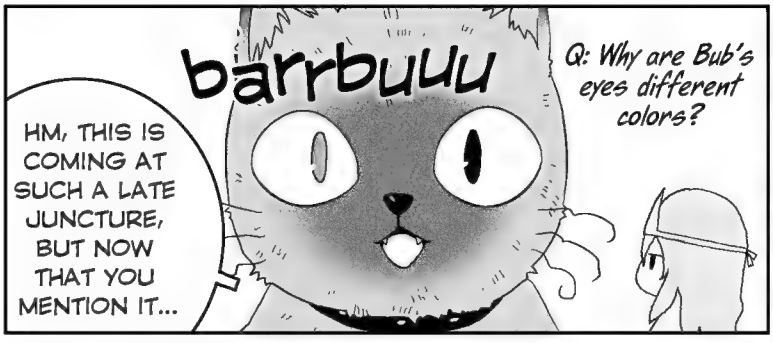
NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU PURSUE YOUR IDEAL FORMULA ...
... YOU'LL NEVER GAIN REAL LOVE IN THE END...
YOU STILL DON'T REALIZE THAT? HOW PITIFUL ...
... IS THAT SO?
IS THAT... YOUR ANSWER ...?
... WELL THEN.
TWEEEEEEE

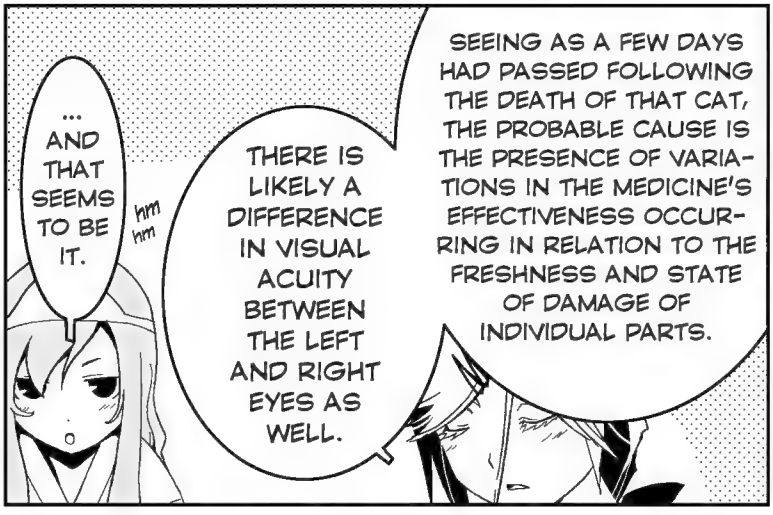
GLIDE
TWITCH
GUARRY
GRAAA
WHY, YOU ...!
GO AWAY !!
H... HUH? THEY WENT AWAY ...?!
G... GOOD !
I DON'T GET IT, BUT THIS IS OUR CHANCE !
PUFF
HUFF
SHP
... AH!
PRO ... FES- SOR ...
RUN... AWAY!
OR ELSE ...
... DARIN.

HOW ABOUT YOU ALSO ...

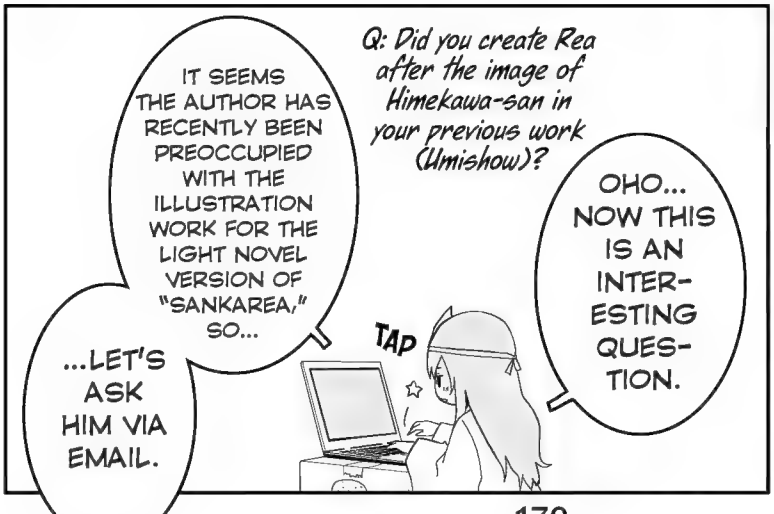
... GIVE A PROPER TRY TO A NEW WAY OF LIVING ?

TO BE CONTINUED IN VOLUME 9

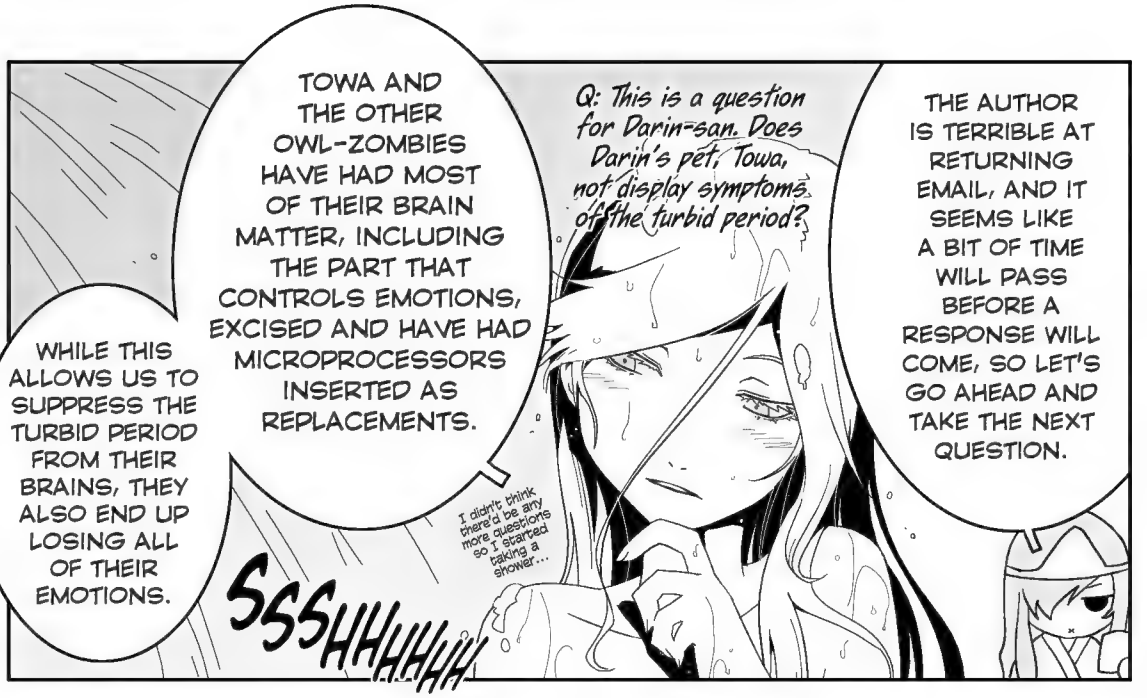

barrbuuu
HM, THIS IS COMING AT SUCH A LATE JUNCTURE, BUT NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT...
Q: Why are Bub's eyes different colors?

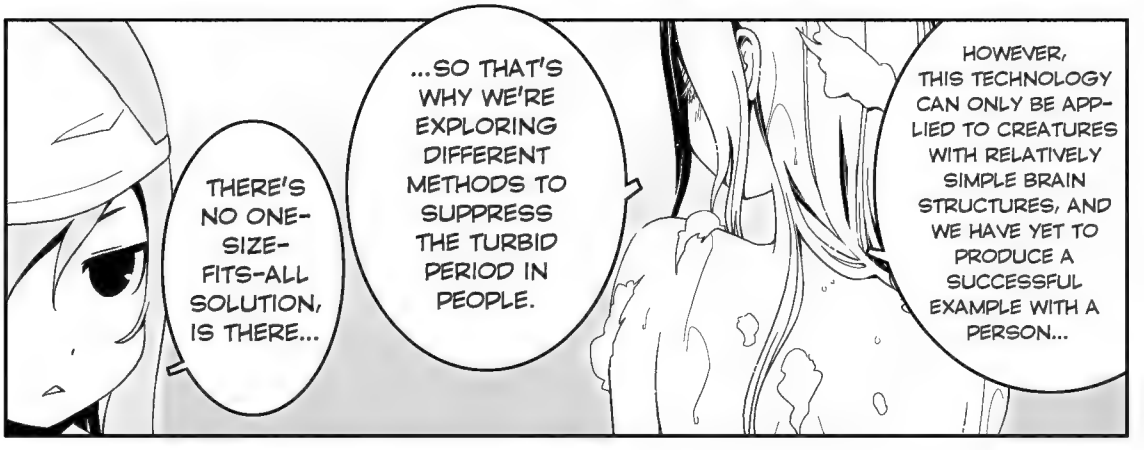

... AND THAT SEEMS TO BE IT.
hm hm
THERE IS LIKELY A DIFFERENCE IN VISUAL ACUITY BETWEEN THE LEFT AND RIGHT EYES AS WELL.
SEEING AS A FEW DAYS HAD PASSED FOLLOWING THE DEATH OF THAT CAT, THE PROBABLE CAUSE IS THE PRESENCE OF VARIATIONS IN THE MEDICINE'S EFFECTIVENESS OCCURRING IN RELATION TO THE FRESHNESS AND STATE OF DAMAGE OF INDIVIDUAL PARTS.

PROBABLY ...
Q: Chihiro often skips school, but is everything all right with his attendance and such?
hm


IT SEEMS THE AUTHOR HAS RECENTLY BEEN PREOCCUPIED WITH THE ILLUSTRATION WORK FOR THE LIGHT NOVEL VERSION OF "SANKAREA," SO...
...LET'S ASK HIM VIA EMAIL.
Q: Did you create Rea after the image of Himekawa-san in your previous work (Umishow)?
OHO... NOW THIS IS AN INTERESTING QUESTION.
TAP

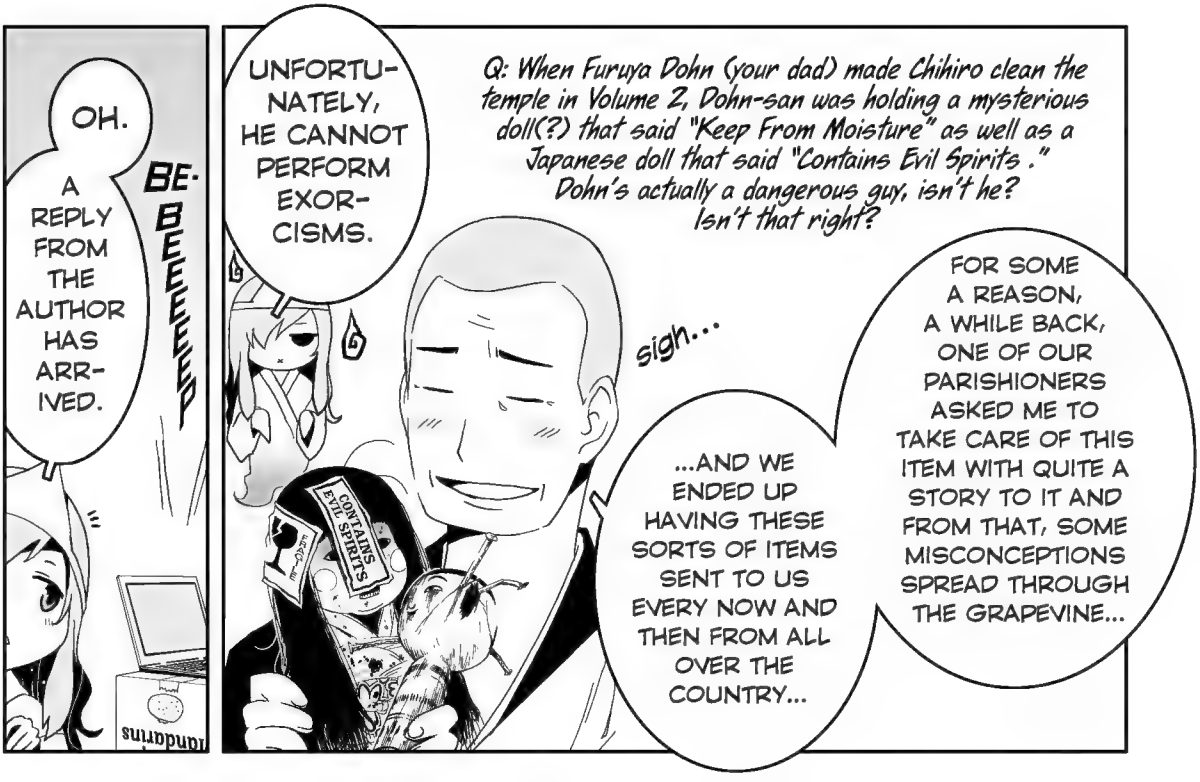
MERO'S ZEN RIDDLES
END-OF-VOLUME BONUS COMIC
EVEN AS OUR STORY REACHES ITS CLIMAX, THIS CORNER WILL CONTINUE TO GO AT MY PACE.


Q: This is a question for Darin-san. Does Darin's pet, Towa, not display symptoms of the turbid period?
THE AUTHOR IS TERRIBLE AT RETURNING EMAIL, AND IT SEEMS LIKE A BIT OF TIME WILL PASS BEFORE A RESPONSE WILL COME, SO LET'S GO AHEAD AND TAKE THE NEXT QUESTION.
I didn't think there'd be any more questions so I started taking a shower...
SSSHHHHHH
TOWA AND THE OTHER OWL-ZOMBIES HAVE HAD MOST OF THEIR BRAIN MATTER, INCLUDING THE PART THAT CONTROLS EMOTIONS, EXCISED AND HAVE HAD MICROPROCESSORS INSERTED AS REPLACEMENTS.
WHILE THIS ALLOWS US TO SUPPRESS THE TURBID PERIOD FROM THEIR BRAINS, THEY ALSO END UP LOSING ALL OF THEIR EMOTIONS.


HOWEVER, THIS TECHNOLOGY CAN ONLY BE APPLIED TO CREATURES WITH RELATIVELY SIMPLE BRAIN STRUCTURES, AND WE HAVE YET TO PRODUCE A SUCCESSFUL EXAMPLE WITH A PERSON...
...SO THAT'S WHY WE'RE EXPLORING DIFFERENT METHODS TO SUPPRESS THE TURBID PERIOD IN PEOPLE.
THERE'S NO ONE-SIZE-FITS-ALL SOLUTION, IS THERE...

Q: I know that Chihiro-kun loves zombies, but is there anything that you like in the same way as Chihiro-kun, Mero-chan?
...PERHAPS, COPYING THE SU TRAS ...
...AND GRILLED MUSHROOMS ...?
SHHHHH

Q: Mero-chan, could you please do me the favor of lifting up your bangs?
?
flip

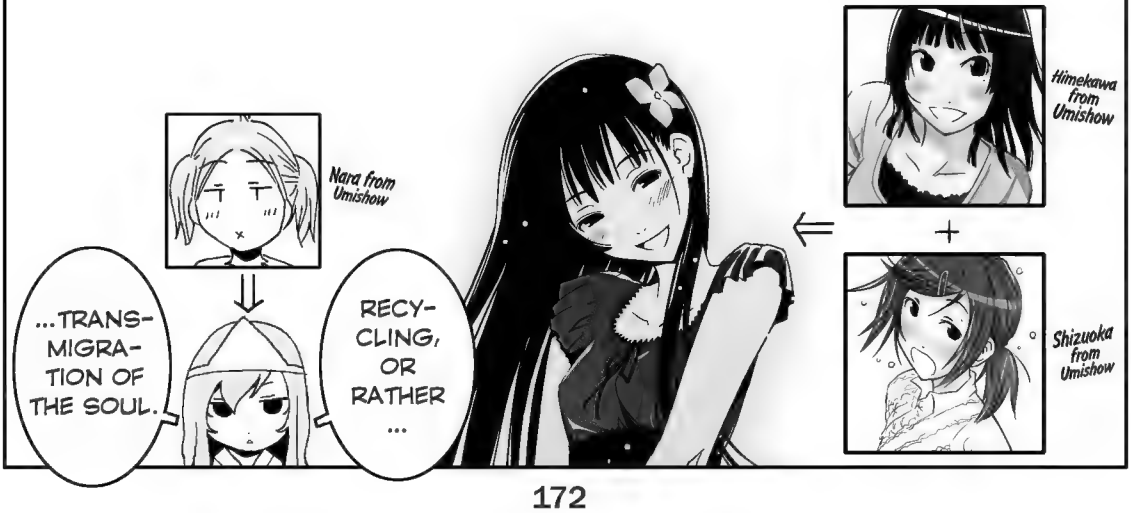

OH.
A REPLY FROM THE AUTHOR HAS ARRIVED.
BE-BEEEEEP
UNFORTUNATELY, HE CANNOT PERFORM EXORCISMS.
Q: When Furuya Dohn (your dad) made Chihiro clean the temple in Volume 2, Dohn-san was holding a mysterious doll(?) that said "Keep From Moisture" as well as a Japanese doll that said "Contains Evil Spirits." Dohn's actually a dangerous guy, isn't he? Isn't that right?
CONTAINS EVIL SPIRITS
sigh...
...AND WE ENDED UP HAVING THESE SORTS OF ITEMS SENT TO US EVERY NOW AND THEN FROM ALL OVER THE COUNTRY...
FOR SOME A REASON, A WHILE BACK, ONE OF OUR PARISHIONERS ASKED ME TO TAKE CARE OF THIS ITEM WITH QUITE A STORY TO IT AND FROM THAT, SOME MISCONCEPTIONS SPREAD THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE...

About the question regarding the connection between Rea and Himekawa...you're exactly right!

To put it precisely, I used elements of the character named "Himekawa" and the character named "Shizuoka" from "Umishow" when developing "Sanka Rea."

I'm sure that those who have been fans from before know this, but just like you saw in this case, I've always liked "utilizing characters that have elements similar to those of sub-characters I've grown fond of as main characters in my next work," and so I do it from time to time.

Perhaps a certain sub-character from "Sankarea" will act as a main character in my next work.



WELL THEN... THIS TIME AROUND WE ONCE AGAIN FIND OURSELVES AT OUR USUAL ENDING...
BUT I DO WONDER IF WE SHOULD JUST MAKE A WHOLE CORNER OUT OF THIS SINCE SINCE WE ALREADY HAVE ENOUGH SUBMISSIONS TO DO SO...
THUD
I UNDERSTAND THAT WE DID DOG COSPLAY LAST TIME...
flip
BUT I'M RATHER SURPRISED THAT THERE WERE SO MANY SUBMISSIONS FOR SOMETHING AS OBVIOUS AS A CAT...
I want to see Mero-chan cosplay as a cat.
Now that you were a dog, I want to see you cosplay as a cat!
Sent from my iPhone.
ONE AFTER ANOTHER
...I'M GOING ALONG WITH THE OBVIOUS... JUST THIS TIME ONLY!

"Mero's Zen Riddles" e-mail address:

(Put something like "Zen Riddles" or "Questions for Mero" in the subject line.)

kodanshacomics@randomhouse.com

*Questions we couldn't answer this time may be picked up in the next volume or after, as well.

TRANSLATION NOTES

Honorifics: This series retains the Japanese honorifics. Here's a guide:
-san: Polite, equivalent to "Mr." or "Ms."
-sama: A term of great respect.
-kun: Used for boys or people in a lower position.
-chan: A sometimes cutesy term of endearment for girls.
-dono: A very respectful and now old-fashioned term.
-sempai: Refers to a student who entered school before you, or a colleague who entered the company before you. (The equivalent for your juniors is "kohai.")

p.9 onward:
Anywhere written in italics is supposed to express that the researchers are speaking English. Chihiro doesn't know English, but Rea does.

Page 84: Sa-n-jo!
Because of the fact that a lot of the written Japanese language is based around kanji characters, sometimes Japanese abbreviate words by using just as many characters as is needed to get the point across. In this case, Sanka Girls' School is abbreviated to "San" (from Sanka) and "jo" (from 'joshi', meaning 'girls.')

Page 87: Itadakimasu.
Itadakimasu is a phrase that most Japanese people use before starting to eat. It roughly means 'I will humbly partake,' and is an expression of thanksgiving for the meal or snack. As you can see in Mero's case, this is used even when alone.

Departure

DEDUCTIVE DOG DETECTIVE

When Takeru adopts a new pet, he's in for a surprise—the dog is none other than the reincarnation of Sherlock Holmes. With no one else able to communicate with Holmes, Takeru is roped into becoming Sherdog's assistant, John Watson. Using his sleuthing skills, Holmes uncovers clues to solve the trickiest crimes.

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